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| Interviewee: Dolly Ferries (DF) | Interviewer: Kirsty Robertson (KR) |
| Date of Interview: 2 October 2012 | Ref: DG10-12-1-1-T |

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| Interview No. | DG10-12-1-1 PART 1 OF 2 |
| Interviewee: | Kirsty Robertson |
| Interviewer: | Dolly Ferries |
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| 00:00 – 05:00 | DF born at North Balfern, Kirkinner. Father was a shepherd there. Earliest memory there was of having scarlet fever. Sister is 2 years younger (also born there). Moved to Baltersan, near Newton Stewart. First school was at Louden. Quite a number of children there from farms. The travelling dentist, who did all his work in the classroom in front of the children, Teeth pulled out and then sent home. Move to West Mains. (Part of Baldoon Camp during WWII.) Stays there until 20 years old. All during the war years. |
| 05:00 – 10:00 | Walking to school. Chocolate drink in the afternoon was the start of 'school meals'. Describes the house and how the door was never locked. The cottage was up beside the railway. Met many people from different parts of the world during the war years. Many families didn't have money for all the children to go to high school. Describes the inside of the house – living area/bedroom. Fresh scones every day. Made their own butter. Made friends with RAF/ WAF personnel. |
| 10:00 – 15:00 | Training at Baldoon airfield. Many trades-people looking for digs with locals, as the airfield was built. The story of the drunk cyclist hitting a cow in the road. DF was in the Guides. Helped out at the Church of Scotland canteen which was inside the camp. During the war the Rural (WRA?) ran a Friday night dance where DF's mother helped out. Going to the cinema which was situated in the camp. |
| 15:00 – 20:00 | Describes the 'Troop-Train': a change-over of personnel at the camp. Sometimes the trains went further on to Whithorn because there were troops stationed there. The runway was right next to their house, but 'you just got used to it'. Talk about the house: kitchen, water, dry toilet. Growing vegetables. Reared 3 pigs each, 2 were sold, 1 for their own consumption, "which you were supposed to report". Talk about the 'Black Market'. But didn't need a license to rear the pigs. Salting the bacon. Had a small part in the house for the dairy. At the other end of the house was a boiler, where all the washing was done. |

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| 20:00 – 25:00 | Sunday night: bath night for everyone. Father got help in to kill and 'clean' the pig. Pork ribs that night. Rest of the meat salted for the winter. The family also had chickens and ducks and geese and turkeys. Young turkeys would die if they got stung by nettles. Birds kept for eggs, then killed when past laying. Although 'rationed' they got their flour straight from Milldriggan Mill: perhaps because the family provided food stuffs for the mill animals. Feeding sheep on turnips in winter, with a machine that cut turnips into 'chips'. Describes Braxy: the condition in sheep where they overeat and their stomach explodes. |
| 25:00 – 30:00 | Her father called his boss (John Sproat) 'Baldoon' – after the farm.. Faher moves on to farm management near Garlieston. During the war there was a dance every Saturday at Bladnoch Creamery Halls. Local bands provided the music (of which there were quite a lot). 'Red MacAdam and his Hoochie Boys' from Wigtown. 'John Gracie' from Creetown. 'Tammy Briggs' from Garlieston. An accordion player on Barwinnock Farm. Music was loud, but there was 2 or 3 minutes in between dances when you could talk. But no bar. Pubs closed at 9pm. But it was likely some kept bottles outside the hall. |
| 30:00 – 35:00 | The dances went on til 2 in the morning except Saturdays: had to be out of the hall by midnight. Sometimes DF went to church, but they weren't 'regular attenders'. House always busy at Christmas/New Year. Some stories about entertaining. Advice for finding a wife. People they knew who dies during the war. Plane crashes. Talks about the two-to-a-seat seats at school. Went off to do Service. Remembers V.E./V.J. Day when she was away. |
| 35:00 – 40:00 | Working the horses, after school. Describes working with one particularly energetic horse on Gavin Lawson's farm. Working in the threshing mill. Both Baldoon and West Mains had silages. Trampling down silage to get it solid. "Beans, corn, everything" all chopped up and the "treacle poured over it" for feeding the cattle. Describes the machinery used for cutting up and stacking stacks. Describes the structure containing the silage. |
| 40:00 – 45:00 | Describes the threshing process before the combine-harvester. Using the tractor to drive the mill wheel. Thinning turnips as a youngster. Tells of other local folk who helped out on the farm to earn extra money; during the night and weekends. But some also did day shifts. Was 16/17 when she went into Service: Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire. Staying at Callendar House, while the Forbes of Callendar lived in a hunting lodge at Dalry. DF works in the kitchen. There were maids and a butler and a handyman who doubled as a chauffer. No food ever came back from the dining room: the butler kept it! |
| 45:00 – 50:00 | The folk at the big house ate well in terms of variety in their 5 courses, but the portions were small. DF worked as a scullery maid but also helped out with the vegetables. Drinking beer with |

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| | <p>the boys round the bonfire – and the cook found out and was not impressed. Accommodation was better than at home: only 2 people sharing a room. And running water. The girls were well looked after, but long working weeks. A half-day off and every other Sunday: “You got your weekend every six weeks”. After that DF moved to Ladykirk, Prestwick.</p> |
| 50:00 – 55:00 | <p>Doing Service was good experience. Then works at the Sorbie Creamery in the cheese-making division. Butter rations and people buying butter: income for her mother. Again, refers to the ‘Black Market’. Father had bees which meant you could apply for sugar rations to feed them over the winter. Speculates that the local police force were not so diligent in following up these application declarations (in return for honey). The story of preparing to hang a killed pig from the end of the house but police turn up because there had been a fire at Gavin Lawson’s place; and the scramble to get the ladder (and evidence) down from against the end of the house. Describes killing the pig (and sheep).</p> |
| 55:00 – 60:00 | <p>Fred, at Norris the Butchers, Wigtown, also bought pigs from them. Story about a time when a pig wasn’t firmly tied in the back of a van. Has plenty of milk. Some airmen (out on the exercise – get ‘fly’) and came to the farm when they were churning butter, for a cheeky scone and butter. Nearly 25 when DF married. When at Townhead. (Doesn’t know why it got called Townhead “because on the old maps it was Sorbie Farm”.) Married at [Ma-lyle?] Church. Village hall for later. Aunts and uncles at the wedding – the cousins at night. Mrs Robb(?) who had the Railway Inn at Whithorn did the catering. Hotels weren’t used in those days like they are now; unless you were very well off.</p> |

<Sound of setting up the field recorder>

Kirsty Robertson: Right. This is Kirsty Robertson, and I'm talking tonight to Dolly Ferries, we're in Dolly's house in [REDACTED] Newton Stewart, and I'm just gonna ask Dolly to tell us a bit about her life; first of all, Dolly, could you just confirm for us, and for the record, your name and your address-

Dolly Ferries: Yes. Dolly Ferries; I live [REDACTED] in Newton Stewart, and I live alone-

KR: Yes.

DF: -at the moment-

KR: Uh-hu. And would you like to tell us your age?

DF: Eighty-three.

KR: Eighty-three years young, mm-hmm. And you were born, Dolly- where were you born?

DF: I was born at North Balfern in Kirkinner parish, and my father was a shepherd there-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -mother, of course, she never- she never worked, it- she was always just the housewife, an- a the family- lookin after the family-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and, that- we lived there- I think it would be about three years we lived there,[1] and... then we- the earliest thing I remember there was... I had scarlet fever-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and I remember being at Newton Stewart Hospital, which was the fever hospital then... and goin back home, and... [xxx] I never spoke all the time I was in the hospital; I got back home, an I was playing- swingin on a gate, and somebody spoke to me, and I answered them and I just cried, I cried all day- that was the first I had spoken since takin the scarlet fever-

KR: Right.

DF: -bit that's more or less all I remember there-

KR: Uh-hu. So you'd be- you'd be about three then? You'd be really young then? [2]

DF: Well, I was- I would be- my sister's two years younger than me, and she was born there-

KR: Aye. How many were there in your family?

DF: Six. Two boys, two girls, and two boys, and your talkin about two years between each-

KR: Ah.

DF: -give or take months, but two years-

KR: Yeah, yeah. Uh-hu.

DF: -and, that- and then we were at Balterson, near Newton Stewart, for a couple a years-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that's where I started school at Louden-

KR: Louden?

DF: -Started school at Louden, yes-

KR: Where's that, Dolly?

DF: Causew- you know, Causeway End... where the red box is- this pillar box that they're talkin about preserving-

KR: Ah right. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -just up there on the hill, it's where Dr Moffatt is now-

KR: Ah, that's right, uh-hu- and were there many kids at that school?

DF: Oh aye, there as a good lot-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -there was a good lot there- all the farms- cos I mean, then, there was a lot a children on farms-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -you know, all these cottages, they had, maybe, three or four children in each-

KR: Yeah. And was your- was your father a shepherd at Balfern? [3]

DF: He was a shepherd there too.

KR: Right. Uh-hu.

DF: And I remember at that time there was a... the one prominent thing there was this Dentist went round the schools... and there was this [McMinn] you called the man- did the school- was the school dentist... well, ye had- all your treatment in the classroom in front of the children... and there was this boy, I remember, Davy Gordon you called him, well he never- he had teeth to come out but they were never out, and the dentist was on top a him, the teacher was on top a him, an they never got his teeth out, no- no way, he yells an screams an kicks-

<Both cuckle>

DF: -an that- I remember about that- other than that-

KR: Yes.

DF: -that was... that was that- it was- it was funny, I remember that, but luckily I had my teeth out beforehand- and maybe, I think- an ye got sent home then, you see, [4] you got your teeth all out an then you got sent home-

KR: Oh right, uh-hu. Uh-hu. And the-

DF: So that's- that's it, a couple a years there, then we moved to West Mains, and that was inside what Baldoon Camp was durin the war-

KR: Ah right, yeah.

DF: -belonged John Sproat- had this-

KR: Aye.

DF: -Baldoon and West Mains-

KR: Mm-hmm. And did you stay there a longer time?

DF: Stayed there- we stayed there- that was May- I would just- I would start the school in the summer... an maybe the followin year I would be just a year at Louden-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an then we... moved there, and we were there until- what- I was about twenty-

KR: Oh-

DF: -you're talkin about all these years- all durin the war we were there-

KR: Uh-hu. So where did you go to school from there?

DF: Kirkinner.

KR: And di you have to-

DF: And that was only- the only school I was at, other than that-

KR: Oh, you stayed there til when? What age?

[5]

DF: Til I left the school- fourteen.

KR: Fourteen, right. And how did you get tae school?

DF: Walked.

KR: Yeah? That's a couple a miles int that?

DF: Well, it would be further if I went- if we went the road way, but we took a short cut up the railway-

KR: Oh right-

DF: -which was very handy-

KR: <Laughs> And did you- did you take- what did you do about dinner time? About earing?

DF: Well, we took- we took our piece-

KR: Aye.

DF: -we took our piece an then they started doin- drinkin chocolate or sumhin in the middle a the day-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -you know, lunch-time-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an that was the begginin a what was, you would say was, school meals were, you know, it was just a warm drink-

KR: Mm-hmm. An do you remember much about the- well, you must remember quite a bit about the cottage there- what was it like?

DF: Oh aye, well it was a- one big living room and two kitchens, an there was a pantry- two bedrooms, rather- an there was a pantry-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -and- well, the house is still there but it's all been done up- [6]

KR: Aye.

DF: -but what it's like inside I don't know now, but, I mean, it was good- lived there durin the war-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an it had lots a visitors-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -needless to say, and all these years our door was never locked-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -never lost a thing-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -different from now, you couldnae noo, but that was then- but I went to school there; but I remember when we went there, we were goin up this- beside the- the road to the cottage was up beside the railway- an we were goin up an this train came along... an that was us, you know, the first- well, I'll no say the first- well it's the first train that I remember seein-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -well, lots a things of course durin the war, you know, you met-

KR: Yeah-

DF: -plenty of people from different parts of the world; but at the school... well, [7] there was six of us, an we all passed our control in these days-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -unfortunately, couldnae get- goin on we didnae have the money, the means, which was unfortunat in these days, and some people nowadays they don't take the opportunity, you know, it's there an they don't take the opportunity-

KR: Did nobody go to the high school then? None a ye? The boys-

DF: The two boys- the two boys did, but at that time Wigtown was the high school-

KR: Ah right!

DF: An then, of course, when I passed, it was the Ewart, you had to come to the Ewart but we couldnae afford it, you know, just- fares an uniforms an books an things, just hadnae the money-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: And that, however... we got by-

KR: Aye. Could you tell us a bit about the cottage? About the kitchen an the- what- how your mother got on with her washin an cookin an things- [8]

DF: Yeah. Well the livin area- an we had two beds in it because it was the size of these two bedrooms together-

KR: Right.

DF:-but the front bedroom- we had a bed settee which was only used for visitors-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an then there was this wee backroom which was another room, but- an there was this wee sorta scullery bit where you washed up dishes an things... but... there was fresh scones made every day... every day; we didn't eat so much bread but fresh scones... an my father bein the shepherd – he had two cows – the use of two cows, and we made butter, and... made butter, and we had, well ,durin the war, really... you wouldnae hae known wi us, you would never have known, except for the people in the- at the- in the air force an that- they [had?] their uniform- you wouldn't- as [9] far as our life was concerned-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -eating- you wouldn't have known there was a war on-

KR: Mmm.

DF: - as I say, she made fresh scones everyday, there was pancakes often, potato scones, and... there was nearly always somebody in the house from the- among the RAF personnel; and... of course... some a them, well, in fact, there's one lady – one a the WAFs – I'm still friendly with til this day- which says that- we did- we were friendly with other ones though over a period a time, but that's gone now- some a them, dead and one thing an another- [10]

KR: So they'd all be-

DF: Deid-

KR: [xxx]

DF: -they were all in the- aye, they were all WAFs and airmen, aye-

KR: Trainin at Baldoon airfield-

DF: -stayin at Baldoon, aye-

KR: Yeah, yeah. An did you- did you see the airfield bein built, then?

DF: Yes-

KR: Aye, uh-hu.

DF: -we did.

<Both chuckle>

DF: We did. And, of course, people lookin for- they were lookin for digs, an this wee Irish fellah came up, "Oh we havenae room, we havenae room", which we didnae have room- "Oh, I'll just lie- I'll just lie on the floor, just somewhere", well, we had that wee fellah til he- til he went away- but he was a Catholic... and he was superstitious-

KR: <Chuckling>

DF: -and he liked to drink... so he borrowed one a the boys bikes – he was goin tae- he was goin tae the chapel – a Sunday night, and the Sunday night, of course, they would retire... for a refreshment after it, an comin home, there was a cow lyin in [11] the roadway, on the lane up tae the house, and there was this two light- two dark bits an this light bit in the middle, an he thought-

<Both chuckle>

DF: -seein more than he shoulda seen- [xxx] here it was a cow an he ran into it- an he realised, he hit the cow and there's this- <makes the sound of a cow roaring after being hit by the cyclist>

<Both laugh>

DF: -he took to his heels, he never made it for the bike- he never lifted it, it was twisted anyway; so he never came home drunk again-

KR: No. <Laughs>

DF: -but, we had him til he left-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -they moved on to somewhere else-

KR: Oh, he was there to help build the-

DF: Yes, when they were buildin-

KR: -they were buildin the airfield, yeah-

DF:-yes; they were- they werenae so much buildin the airfield as they were buildin the... building for the people to come into-

KR: Ah, right.

DF: -there was- there was Hudson that put it up so that the airfield crowd could [12] come in-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -an that; you know, they were the, sort of, what you would call the groundcrew that started-

KR: Aye, right. Right.

DF: -but then, of course, you see, we got to... meet a lot a other ones-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: I was in the- I was in the guides – no that I was fussy about the guides, wasnae in it long either – but, because a that we were- we were helpin out at the Church of Scotland canteen... not a lot of us, but I did-

KR: Was that in Wigtown?

DF: -an that was inside the camp-

KR: Oh, inside the camp-

DF: -there was a Church of Scotland inside the camp-

KR: Right. Mm-hmm.

DF: -and I was a handy five minutes- or a couple a minutes if- dependin [how] quick you walk- if they were short a people- somebody to help, they would just give me a shout, an- cos I was still at the school then, an I went up there and helped, and [13] there was always a wee titbit, you know, we got a wee titbit there, cos- an you could then get to know a lot a people-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -I went to the- at that time, durin the war the Rural ran a Friday night dance in Kirkinner Hall, an my mother always helped, so after I finished- an I was always at the canteen on a Friday night- so after I finished there I always went up to the- to the dance, an then got home with my mother, and some a them, they were maybe in there for a wee while, but they got to know me an they would say “are you goin to the dance”? – an I would get along the road wi some a them, but one night... I was on my own... an there was- there’s a big hedge as you go along at the Braehead, there was a big hedge-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -well, I was walkin on that side a the road an then this voice came- I never [14] known- it was the first black man I saw-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an this <laughing> an he spoke because he had recognised me at the Church of Scotland canteen, but I hadnae- I never noticed him in the dark- he was the first black man to- he apologised the next time he saw me- “I hope I didn’t give you a fright, sorry”- but anyway, that was that- but-

KR: So, was he an American? Or a Canadian? Or something?

DF: Well, I think he would be an American-

KR: Aye.

DF: -outside a that I didnae get talkin- I think he would be an American-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -or he coulda been- you know- but... an American accent-

KR: Aye.

Df: -I would say- and, of course, there was Australians and New Zealanders there too-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: But- it was- I went, knowin the WAFs an that, an although I was young I got to the- went to the dances in the camp an that, with them-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an the cinema an that, so it saved me go- it saved us goin away into Wigton [15] you know- you paid into the cinema too, right enough – I cannae remember what it was, sixpence or something –

KR: Yeah. Yeah.

DF: -it wasnae very much anyway, but you paid-

KR: So that would be quite exciting, having all-

DF: Oh it was, I went in among these WAFs an all these- aye-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -all these airmen an one thing an another-

KR: Yeah. An what was your mother-

DF: An then, of course-

KR: Sorry, Dolly-

DF: -there were these- we always referred to them as a 'troop-train' because that's what they were-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -comin in, an you always knew they were comin in, an a change over- some a them- they marched from the camp to the train station-

KR: In Kirkinner?

DF: In Kirkinner.

KR: Right.

DF: That's where they went, an the train went there, dropped of the fresh ones and took the... other ones away-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -that was a changeover at the camp- sometimes there was different- because there was Poles at the Isle of Whithorn, at- [16]

KR: Barrhead.

DF: -Barrhead-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -there was Poles that were in there-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -so sometimes the trains went further on to Whithorn-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an that, but I mean, most a them were at Kirkinner, an you knew this was a changeover, an you thought to yoursel, 'well, they didn't always know they were goin away...'- an you maybe had people that came kinda regular every other day, an then they disappeared an that was them- you knew that was them away then-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: -because it was- it was aeroplane training, pilots an one thing an another-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that was them- an the runway- the way the runway ran... it was just over the top ay our house, just a field between us, an the-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -but you got so used to the noise- see even if they were doin night flyin-

KR: Aye.

DF: -you never bothered, you were just so used to them-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: -doin that-

[17]

KR: Yeah. An did your mother cook on a range? Or what?

DF: She had a range, yes, it was just a-

KR: Black-

DF: -kitchen- black kitchen range-

KR: Aye. Aye.

DF: -she had, an, oh it was... it was good-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -rolled out a lot a good stuff, an of course, the- we had no runnin water either, it was a dry toilet we had, too-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and- but there was a good pump, lovely water it had-

KR: Was that near the house?

DF: Just in front of the house, uh-hu, it was just- and plenty- we were never short- we were never, in the summer, or anything, never went dry, it was great-

KR: Mm-hmm. An did you have a garden? Did your dad-

DF: We had a garden-

KR: Your dad grow tatties?

DF: Yes, had a garden... grew vegetables an everything, but there was always potatoes an turnips an that on the farm anyway-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and... we kept pigs-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -reared three pigs every year, two were sold, one was for home consumption [18]
which you were supposed to report... but that was the black market we were in-

<Both laugh>

DF: -you were supposed to get permission and lose your butcher meat-

KR: Oh right.

DF: -for so long, because a this pig that you were killin an curin at home-

KR: Did anybody ever come an check that? Did anyone from the government, or
anything, no?

DF: No. We were- no, no- they never- well, we didn't... we didnae- we didnae have to
have a license to rear these pigs, we bought them from a farmer-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that bred pigs-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF:-and- well, the first time we had three was- there was this runt, an the farmer
said to my mum, "you can just take it, it'll die anyway"- well it didnae die, it was [19]
a good pig... tasted great-

<Both laugh>

DF: -so she got no more runts-

<Both laugh>

DF: -what about the runt-

KR: So how did ye-

DF: -no more runts-

KR: When you killed the pigs- the pig that you kept-

DF: Uh-hu.

KR: How did you-

DF: Salted. In wooden tubs.

KR: Oh, wooden tubs.

DF: -we had nothin- then, salted it in wooden tubs-

KR: Right.

DF: -cured the bacon-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -you know, they had these- put it- you could get net to wrap it in-

KR: Right, aye.

DF: -an you did that- an we had this- a dairy; at one end of the house we had this we bit for the dairy, the milk an that-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and whoever made the butter- on the other end a the house was a boiler... where all the washin an that was done; an we had a tin bath, you could lay down, an that was Sunday- Sunday nights- everybody had their bath, they started wi the [20] wee-est – they had this boiler goin – and all- everyone had a bath Sunday night... that was it ready to start the week clean... an that, of course, plenty a water topped up... an that, that was that part, but we- of course, my dad, an he got this other fellah tae help... kill- because you killed the pig... an then you had to scrape it wi boilin- again, there was this boiler goin to- you poured boilin water off it to scrape the hair off the pig-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -an then you got it hung up, an cleaned it-

KR: Uh-hu, uh-hu.

DF: -an cleaned it all out, and that was a great feed that night because- pork ribs- pork ribs, freshly killed an cooked an they were great... the rest, of course, was [21] salted an preserved an used over the winter-

KR: Aye. An how did your mother cook the ribs? Did she boil them? Or did she-

DF: Well, she would just- no, they wouldnae be boiled, they would be simmered, pot-roasted-

KR: Oh, pot-roated, right.

DF: Aye, that's the way they were- pot-roasted- great-

KR: Uh-hu, uh-hu. An did you have chickens?

DF: We had chickens.

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: We had ducks. We had geese.

KR: Oh!

DF: We had turkeys. We didnae have geese for long because, you see, they were- they chased people; but we had turkeys, but you had to watch them because if young turkeys got stung it killed them-

KR: Stung!?

DF: Mm-hmm.

KR: What by?

DF: Nettles.

KR: Really!?

DF: They got stung wi- aye, if they got in among the nettles-

KR: Oh right, aye-

DF: -but they were- of course, that again was money-makin- sold at Christmas-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and... for a bit a money... ducks, we- of course we had the eggs, an then [22] when a duck was past layin, of course, it was eaten, same wi the hens, you only kept them while they were of any use to you-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and... we had the henhouse, it was out- it was round the back... and... well, we had- we had the range, an we got- there were farmers- farm workers in that time, they got benefits... they got so much coal per year, they got- this, of course, would be accordin to the bargain they made wi the farmer, an they got so much flour, and, oh, meal... well, of course, that was, again, rationed durin the war – flour – but I dunno how it was that my dad- we got ours for nothin, without coupons, [23] because we got it straight from the mill – Milldriggan Mill –

KR: Is that in Kirkinner?

DF: Mmm- Milldrig- uh-hu-

KR: The one on the way in-

DF: -one- way- at Braehead-

KR: -aye, uh-hu- Braehead, uh-hu-

DF: -aye, that one- an, I don't know how- I don't know how it come- it was whether- it was because needed oatmeal an stuff for providing for their stock-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -I don't know, because you could feed calves an that on thin porridge an things like that-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -you know that they could do that, so whether it was because a that we got it straight from the mill-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but we were always- plenty a four- always plenty oatmeal and [fire-in?], always plenty a that-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -so we were really lucky- an plenty of food- my father, or course, a shepherd, and John Sproat, of course, was his boss, an durin the winter they fed sheep on [24] turnips, an ye had this machine it turned- it cut the turnips into, like, just like chips-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because you couldnae give the... sheep too much, if they ate too much their stomach burst, an that was a braxy-

KR: Ahh.

DF: -they died-

KR: That was a name ay a sheep that-

DF: That was the name of a-

KR: -that's what you called it-

DF: -problem, aye- a sheep-

KR: -oh, that was a name- aye-

DF: -a sheep that had overeaten-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an it got- its stomach burst-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -an that was it- that was it dead; but there was a lot a sheep... they died, no because they were over- no because they had overeaten... because, of course, my dad, of course, was good at killin an butcherin, again... and the boss- Baldoon- John Sproat, would say tae him, "David, we're getting kinda short a meat... name your [25] sheep Baldoon"-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -so that was a- down as a braxy-

KR: Oh right.

DF: -that was killed, and the sheepskin and everythin was buried an- well, buried an disposed of, an that was killed... between two family: the boss an the shepherd-

KR: So, your dad called his boss 'Baldoon'? The name a the farm?

DF: Aye, he always called him Baldoon-

KR: That's right, yeah.

DF: -aye, the name a the farm, [xxx], and he was a good boss... when my dad left, he said- he left because he was movin- he got the opportunity tae farm manage... for another- a Mrs- Mrs Cumming, nearer Garlieston, and... John Sproat said tae him [26] "well David, you'll get the job... if you don't like it, you'll aye get a job here" -

KR: Aye.

DF: -so that's what he thought o him-

KR: Aye.

DF: -but- so, of course, my dad... he got the job alright, an that was him- he moved on, but, och, there was, durin the war, I mean... there- there was lots a things- there was the dance every Saturday night in the Bladnoch- the, what was the creamery hall-

KR: Aye:

DF: -the can- creamery hall canteen-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -an the officers weren't allowed to go there-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -so, of course, we had this- it was there quite a bit, a wee while, too, this- well, a couple a them, these Canadian officers- an this one got his civvies sent over-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -kept them at our house... an we went, again, I mean, as I say I was still at school but we went to the dances with him- [27]

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an lots of people, you would see them lookin at him an they'd think [the face?] but the they had civvies on, you know?

<Both laugh>

DF: -an, a course, they're was- they're all just – I was young, you know, silly – daft things, there was nae boyfriend/girlfriend thing, nothin, just somethin for a laugh-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an that, it was every Saturday night there, he would come up, “are we ready, are we ready”-

KR: <Chuckling>

DF: -off we went dancing-

KR: So, who provided the music?

DF: There was different bands.

KR: Local?

DF: Aye, local bands-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -there was a lot-

KR: Aye.

DF: -quite a lot-

KR: Aye.

DF: -there was 'Red MacAdam and his Hoochie Boys', I think it was he called them-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -there was something- he was good [precision?] too-

KR: Aye.

DF: -that was a MacAdam from Wigtown, he had the only one leg, the chap, an [28]
he had this band-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -and, I don't know how he lost his leg but it'll no matter- there was John Gracie
from Creetown-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -there was... there was Briggs, Tammy Briggs from garlieston-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -there was... oh- Barwinnock Farm, there was a fellah had- played an accordion
there... I cannae remember his name but there was quite a few-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -there was quite a lot a local bands-

KR: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

DF: -and... there was always changes, you know, it just depended-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -Kirkinner, on a Friday night, it was usually MacAdam-

KR: Uh-hu, uh-hu.

DF: -an that, an of the course the dances-

KR: How did you like- sorry, Dolly- carry on-

DF: -the dances then, I mean, you'd think- the music was loud too, the music [29] was loud but you always had a break between the dances, it wasnae like continuous- cos you had your waltz an a break, an- quickstep an a break, or an eightsome reel an a break, you know, it was just that two or three minutes between each dance that there was no music an you got a chance to talk-

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: -but, different entirely- but they would be noisy too, you know, when you think it- I remember hearin a piper playin in a hall an it was loud- just-

KR: <Chuckles> An was there a bar?

DF: No.

KR: No. No drink.

DF: No.

KR: No.

DF: The pubs... closed, I think it was nine a clock-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -probab- no, never bars-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -they got- it was suppers-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -you got a cup a tea an they had maybe two sandwiches an a cake or a biscuit or summin- you paid for that, you see?

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an, at the dances- but there was never... there was never bars-

KR: No.

DF: -I hink, some a them maybe had bottles hidden outside an they would go out[30] every now an again an have a drink-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -but, I mean, there was no bars in dances then-

KR: Uh-hu. So, was-

DF: -an they would go on til two a clock in the mornin, an I mean it was dancin-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -except on a Saturday night, they had to be out of the hall by twelve-

KR: Aye, cos it was Sunday the next-

DF: Sunday- was a Sunday then-

KR: An did you go to church?

DF: Sometimes.

KR: Yeah, yeah.

DF: Aye, sometimes I went.

KR: Uh-hu. And how-

DF: Aye, we wereny- we wereny regular attenders but we did go tae-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -we did go to the church-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -so that's- what with... an then at Christmas/New Year there was always a crowd in the house-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -always, because the ones that were coming up- they came- an this Canadian that I told you about – Bud – he got this- it must a been a mutton leg- an he [31] picked it... an he picked it, there wasnae a scrap a meat left on that bone- an then, of course, we're drinkin at the same time, an then he was goin round knockin everybody on the head wi this bloody bone-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -til <laughs> my mother took it off him, an that- again, that was another hing, we had a water fight with him an other ones too; and there was this WAF, oh she was daft on him – Rena – an he tormented her... an he says his father gave him one bit a advice, said... an she's busy with [x]- gettin her make-up on, an things like that, an she'd be- aw touchin it up, an he says my mother- my father gave me this bit a advice: "If ye get- marry a girl when your away be sure to throw her in a duck-pond first an see what she comes out like; if she still looks alright, that's fine"- [32]

<Both laugh>

DF: -there was-

KR: Aye. Aye.

DF: -there was a lot a fun-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -serious things durin the war an aw; some a the people we knew- even wi plane crashes-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -they, got killed; one fellah, Ross- he went- crashed into- well, his plane come down an he went into the Moss – Burgh Moss –

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -along the shore road-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an he come up a long time later-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but, you know, there's always-

KR: When you were- but you were- you were still at school durin all this time-

DF: I was still at the school-

KR: How did you like the school?

DF: I liked the school.

KR: Did you? Aye? Were the teachers good?

DF: Yes. No, I liked the school, I liked the teachers too-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -I liked the teachers, and... wee Miffy, as we called him – Mr Muir – his son, [33] he was clever; an there was him an Alec- we used to have a compe- test every- every week we had a test-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -too see who was the best in the class, and there's him and I – in the same class. Of course – an we occupied- there was two in a seat, you know, like what they have at the museum-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an there's two in the seat, an we just changed over, time about, aye-

KR: Aye.

DF: -we occupied that seat all the time- we were at the school until he moved away- I don't know why he moved away, but anyway, he moved away... and, of course, I left the school when- I was workin on the farm-

KR: Is that still Balfern?

DF: That's- that was at- this was West Mains-

KR: Aw, right.

DF: -before I worked on the farm- Baldoon-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -sometimes the farm further doon – Gavin Lawson – if things were kinda quiet-

KR: Mm-hmm.

[34]

DF: -wi John Sproat, I worked doon at- wi Gavin Lawson further down: he had East Mains and The Crook-

KR: Oh yeah, aye, aye. So what kinda jobs did you get to do? What did wim- what was wimmen's work?

DF: Everythin- workin on- aye, well, no everybody, because the land-girls wereny used- some a them did- I don't remember seein any a them workin a horse though-

KR: Was this still durin the war?

DF: This was, aye, aye-

KR: Aye.

DF: Aye, because I went away- I went away to Service, and the war was still goin on then, I went to this place... an I- cos I remember V.J. -V.E. Day- V.J. Day-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -when I was away-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF:-but I- anyway- when I left the school, of course, the war's still goin on- an I worked horses- I worked a wee horse for Gavin Lawson... because- a bad year wi [35] rain, and Sproat got his done, an then I was down helpin Gavin Lawson, an I'd this wee horse... an once she start- moved- the ground was sodden, you were liftin the stray- the corn an that out a water-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -there were water runnin out a it-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an this wee mare, you coundnae- you couldnae load up a cart – fully loaded – because it- the weight a the-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -sheafs... an she got her shoulder to the reins an she went- she never stopped-

KR: <Chuckling>

DF: -til she was in the yard-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -never stopped; an other people workin in the yard would say, "You don't have to make her run!"-

KR: <Chuckling>

DF: -but I didnae make her run, I just couldn't hold her back, an she never- never hit a gate-post or anyhin- through the middle-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -there she went-

KR: An you were sittin on the cart?

DF: I was sittin on the cart.

[36]

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: Oh, I couldn't- just couldnae a- you couldnae hold her back, she- she just got her shoulder to it an off she went-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an this- that- an a went- the mills an things, you know, you were helpin... I didnae build- a denny- a straw building or anything wi Sproat- Baldoon- there was enough men there-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but Gavin Lawson hadnae so many, an we were- at the mill- the threshin mill we was in, an or course, there was big bales an that, there was no the- no the... no the bales that ye see, they were kinda bunches more-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an he needed somebody to build the stack wi these bunches, an he's sayin, "you do it", a says, "I cannae dae it", I never did that, "I cannae do that"- "you're alright, as long as you as stay oot a Williy- Billy Hill's gairden, you're fine"-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: -he lived next to steadin-

<Both laugh>

DF: -so that's my training- building a stack; nah it didnae fall down it was alright, [37]
but oh, ye had- ye had a lot a good fun too-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an there was silages; Baldoon had a silage at both West Mains and Baldoon- an
there was Herman came to help sometimes-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because this was- getting for the crops an that, you know, durin the war- an we
used to- they used to come in an help us cos the silage- an they went up, an then it
come down from the top an you'd to trample it in- an trample it in to get it solid as
much as you could-

KR: Was it a big pit?

DF: It's a big-

KR: Silage pit?

DF: No, it's no in a pit- they have pits now-

KR: Aye.

DF: -there's- you'll still see at Bal- if your down at Baldoon, or that- a big cement-
they had one at- well, [Tearson?] there-

KR: Oh right. Aye.

DF: -I think- a big- a big concrete tower-

KR: Oh is that what that was for?

DF: Mm-hmm.

KR: Right.

[38]

DF: That was the silage-

KR: Oh that was for silage-

DF: -silage-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but in them days there was beans an everything in this silage, it was a mixed crop- beans, corn, everything- an it was all chopped up an put into this-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -for feedin, an then when it was finished, when ye had your crops all cut an then they poured treacle over it, an it soaked down through this food for feedin the cattle-

KR: Ah right.

DF: -an that- an there was- Eamon came an helped wi that, you know, he just-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an I think- when I think- climbin to the top a that an lookin over the edge- I mean, actually leanin over the top a that, I think to myself- you know, it was an accident waitin to happen- you were so stupid, you did this-

KR: So did you- you had to carry this silage up an put it into this-

DF: No, it was done wi machinery-

KR: Oh right.

DF: -there was a- there was a belt took it up-

KR: Aye, ah right.

DF: -it was a belt... they cut- they put it in into this an it cut it up, an it took it up [39] in kinda bucket things-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an tipped it in-

KR: Right. Right.

DF: -an that; an there was- of course, there was windaes every... there was windaes- there was like a- an at the side there was a big- silage- an there was this bit up the side where you could- wi the steps, an every now an again there was this- like an openin into the silage-

KR: Aye.

DF: -so that you could- but, as the silage went up you locked up these-

KR: Oh right.

DF: -these window bits-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

DF: -to keep the stuff in as you got- as you worked it up, and... ah, there was quite a lot a them, you know, it just- of course, it was fun to them because they'd never used- been used to any a these kinda things at all-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but at Baldoon... it- I wasnae doin so much but I did cart- I did work a horse [40] there too, because I used to fork the sheafs up on to the top a the stacks where they were building them; I hink to myself, "no wonder I've got arthitis now"-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -I mean, you were- you were literally standin... the corn stacks, as they used to be, because they built the- this was- the yard would be full a corn stacks an then- an kinda thatched to keep the rain off them-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an then when the mill came in they – the combine now does everthin –

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but at that time the threshin mill went in an that was fed through the threshin mill to take the corn of the stalks-

KR: Aye. Mm-hmm. Alright. Right, so was that-

DF: -an it just came out straw- you had your-

KR: Aye.

DF: -corn- an you had your corn, an you had the [chaff? – pronounces at *kaff*] kinda of the heads – loose stuff – an then you had the straw-

KR: Aye. So was that a steam threshin mill? Was it steam driven? [41]

DF: It was- aye, well we had-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: No, it would be aff a tractor-

KR: It would be-

DF: -tractor-

KR: Oh right.

DF: -tractor drivin a-

KR: -so there was-

DF: -I'm sayin is tae- aye-

KR: Ye did have tractors-

DF: Aye, an-

KR: -but ye still had horses?

DF: At one time they would be steam but then-

KR: Aye.

DF: -but then- by this time they had the tractors-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -an they had a belt-

KR: Aye. I understand.

DF: -but the tractor- there was a roller on the tractor, an the wheel on the mill, an this-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -that's how it- kept it goin-

KR: Aye... an then-

DF: I always- well if- I was young, really, we worked on the farm cos we used to go out thinnin turnips an- an that, but I don't know, you never hear of anybody thinnin turnips now but I suppose they must do in places-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an there was people in Wigtown, there was a [Rennie?] man especially- he had this group a workers went out at night an at weekends thinnin turnips- [42]

KR: Mm-hmm?

DF: -for farmers, cos they just- an helpin wi crops, you know, bringin- doin things-

KR: Mmm, mm-hmm. Right. Were they local people?

DF: Aye, they were local people-

KR: Aye, just local people.

DF: Aye, just local people doin extra work-

KR: Doin a wee bit extra-

DF: -aye-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -aye; some- they would have some maybe doin the- a daytime job, too-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -people that wereny workin, an all these things- but at night-time an weekends-

KR: Aye.

DF: -people-

KR: Aye, a bit extra.

DF: -some would go out workin for extra-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: The-

KE: An then you went into service?

DF: Well, after a lot- aye, I went into-

KR: Were you a bit older then?

DF: I would be- what, sixteen?

KR: Oh.

DF: I was sixteen, aye-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -sixteen... seventeen... I was seventeen, probably-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -went into service over at Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and... it was what was once a student lodge at one time; they- at Callendar- [43]
there was Forbes of Callender, an this is a- Callendar House is a big house up at
Callendar in the Highlands-

KR: Oh yeah, aye, in Perthshire.

DF: -in the village or town a Callendar-

KR: Aye, I see. Yeah.

DF: -an they had this big house, Callendar- but they- durin the war they just lived in
this- what was a shootin lodge, at Dalry-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -the son, of course, he was away, he was away in the army-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -the daughters, I don't know what- I don't think any a them served in the
services- I don't know, but it was just the old couple-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that were there, an, of course, they had their staff-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and that- I enjoyed that because- gettin out to dances, an you got to know- that-
because there was to or three young girls, so we went out, you know, at night-

KR: Yeah. So what was your- what would- what did you have to do?

DF: I was workin in the kitchen.

[44]

KR: Ah right. Mm-hmm.

DF: Aye, they had their kitchen maids an their butler an- an housemaids an the lady's maid- she was just the housemaid- served- an did the lady's maid as well-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because the couple- the couple then, they were – Forbes – they were- they were older then, you know- an they just- an they had their- the man that sorted their boiler – stokin the boiler for the heatin an the water – he also doubled as a chauffer-

KR: Aye, right. Uh-hu.

DF: -an that, you know- an the way they did, well- an they had the butler... an they had a girl helpin at the tables; there was another lady who lived in one a the cottages, an she came in an helped at the tables too-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that was mostly at night-time for the dinner-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but no matter what went through to the dinin-room, there was never anything came back... the butler kept it-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -needless to say, he wasn't a slim man-

[45]

<Both laugh>

DF: -an never anythin- never anythin come back-

KR: <Laughing> Came back-

DF: -he had it all, but the- I mean the- what you had- they were just small portions that they went, you know, there was about five courses: soup an fish an meat an sweet an savoury, I think there was the whole five-

KR: Aye.

DF: -but you were talkin about, maybe the savoury would be two sardines on a wee finger a toast-

KR: Aye.

DF: -so that's only a- you're talkin about size, you know, there was different-

KR: Aye.

DF: -and... that- it was only small portions, but they still had their-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -variety-

KR: Yeah. An were you cookin?

DF: No.

KR: Or helpin the cook?

DF: I was- I was the scullery maid.

KR: Oh, you were the scullery maid.

DF: I only did the vegetables an that, I was fine-

KR: Aye.

DF: -I quite liked that-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -an you would get... well it's how you learn a lot a things too, you know, an you would- I skin rabbits anyway, but cleanin pheasants an things, you know, you did all these things-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

[46]

DF: an that; I didnae mind doin that because I did like... I like- an I still do like cookin, but now if I'm cookin I cannae be bothered wi doin anyhin else- if I'm cookin I'm cookin-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -an that's it-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -but we went to dances then, and that was, I think... I hink it was V.E. Day- V.J. Day-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -but anyway, they had this... bonfire, an of course, a crowd a these boys, there was girls too, but there was more boys, but anyway- an they- of course they had bottles a beer, an of course I'd had a swig out a bottle a beer – maybe two or three, I cannae remember – but, of course this- the cook had heard about this an she wasn't pleased that I had been drinkin beer-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -“drinkin beer... lettin yoursel down like that”; drinkin beer-

KR: Uh-hu, uh-hu.

[47]

DF: -well, I enjoyed it, I enjoyed it <laughing> with a crowd-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -I would- I would still be, I hink I was eighteen-

KR: Ah, okay.

DF: -I hink it's still eighteen you have to be isn't it?

KR: Well, to buy-

DF: -you have to be eighteen before ye- before ye drink legally-

KR: Aye, aye.

DF: -an that- but I wasnae bothered- but, I mean, we went to the dances- we never had- we never had drink because the pubs were always closed-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: -but that-

KR: An what- what was your accommodation like in that house?

DF: Well, you had your room-

KR: Did you have a room-

DF: -aye, we had a shared room, yes-

KR: -oh, a shared room. Mm-hmm.

DF: -a shared room- everythin an everythin was there, your... well, it was better than what- at home because you'd- you'd just one- you'd two a you sharin that room-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -at home you didnae-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -you know, you had- an there was runnin water an everythin- but right enough, by that time... oh no- no, they were still in there-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -they were still in at West Mains – my parents – because they still had no runnin water or toilet- runnin toilet, you know- [48]

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: -just that they were-

KR: So you felt that was quite luxurious?

DF: Well, it was luxurious, you know-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an when you read- when you read about things like that, an ye watch- no that I've been watchin at all, but I saw bits ay it *Upstairs, Downstairs*, or- an *Downton*- I mean, these girls, they were bein fed-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -good food-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -toilets-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -everything- they had bath-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an a good bed to sleep in-

KR: Mm-hmm. An did you work six days a week? Or-

DF: Aye, ye'd six- ye'd a half day off and every other Sunday-

KR: Ah right.

DF: -you had your breakfast an that, an every day off- every other Sunday off-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an you got your weekend every six weeks- something like that it was-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an, so I could come home from Dalry to Kirkiner-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an, got the train there an that, just- an then I came home, an that- but I enjoyed that, an then I moved away... an I went to this bit at Prestwick, it was... Ladykirk, [49] Ladykirk, I'm just tryin to think a the name where... it was into the coalmines, you know, one a these owners-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -a the coalmines that- he was clean, but the people that were workin for him were anything but hard work-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an that- an I wasnae there- about nine months or something like that- I didnae like it so I come home-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an that was me; after that I was at home-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and by that time... I was- they were still at West Mains, an then after that they moved- my dad got this other job an moved to near Garlieston, Townhead-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but... all in all I think it was good experience too, goin into service, you know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

[50]

DF: -they had to... you're workin wi- well, it was a different- a whole different situation from bein at home-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but... all in all I think it was- it was good experience too, goin into service, you know, that-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -you're workin wi- well it was a different- a whole different situation from bein at home-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -but... I went... when I come home to begin wi- aye, I went to Sorbie Creamery to work... we were just in the cheese-making part, you know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -you know, we're makin the cheese an- an one thing an another, but... there's, och there's lots a things happened, you know, along the road- the way, an ye just-somehin happens an it brigs it- it brings it all back to ye that- that things that have been goin on, you know, that... I just think, "we were so lucky" durin the war- we^[51] made- we made butter well, we were supposed to- because we made butter we shouldn't had butter rations-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -but we still had our butter ration but we didnae always take it, an still we sold butter because there was the wee shops- shop in Kirkinner-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an there was other people bought butter... which eat out there rations-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -and of course they were- it was income for my mother, you know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that, did that- but these- that again, it was black market-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an I suppose, technically... they shoulda been in the jail-

<Both laugh>

KR: I don't think there'd be enough room, Dolly-

DF: An we used- there... as I say, my dad had bees- [52]

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -so you could apply for sugar ration for them, to feed them over the winter-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -because you took the money from them-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but they had- still had to be fed over the winter-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -cos, I mean, wild bees they keep their own honey an that-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -well- so you got sugar, an you had the honey from them-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -that- so you got the sugar, an we'd plenty a sugar- there was other things... oh there was other things; I remember goin into the police station in Wigtown to get this form signed for this sugar for the bees, an I don't know if the policemen ever knew whether there was-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: -he maybe got some honey... he maybe got some honey for doin this but he never- you were supposed to examine- go an examine things-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an see that... you were signin the right thing-

KR: Yeah.

DF: -he shoulda been in the jail [x]-

KR: <Chuckles>

DF: -he was a policeman... <chuckles> an then wi these- this pig, of course, there [53] was another fellah that used to come an help my dad wi the cleanin a the pig an that, an we were waitin this time on... him comin, he was late comin, an or course, my dad had the ladder up against the end a the roof- the end a the house- to get this pig hung up when it was killed, and... all this straw an that down [x], an then, here, we saw two policemen comin up the lane-

KR: <Chuckling>

DF: -the night before – which we knew about right enough – there had been stacks a corn-

KR: <Coughs>

DF: -or hay burned down at Gavin Lawson's place-

KR: Mmm.

DF: -this would be some courtin couple, [she'd say?], an they would be havin a cigarette-

KR: Cigarette, mm-hmm.

DF: -an, of course, that's what happened-

KR: Aye.

DF: -so, of course, this was the policemen lookin to ask if we knew anything about it, saw any strangers or anything- but it wouldnae be strangers, they would be [54] people courtin-

KR: Aye.

DF: -and, anyway, so there was this great scramble to get the ladder down an everythin before the policemen come up-

KR: <Chuckling>

DF: -so that was- that was that, an they were up an away, we could tell them nothing, and, away- an then this Willy, [breechless?] he was- he landed... an we were a wee bit late getting the pig down, but we got it done... an that, you know, it... it

kinda- you think it kinda cruel to- you had to hit the pig on the head an stun it... before you cut its throat- now I don't know- I don't know if they had- the butchers had any means of... any other means of killin a pig... I don't know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -I mean, you had to just-

KR: Your dad did all this? He did all the butcherin?

DF: He did all aw it, aye, an cut its- aye-

KR: Aye. Aye. Uh-hu.

DF: -he did that... an, as I say, I don't know- it was the same wi the sheep, you [55] just cut their throat-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -ye didnae- ye didnae knock them oot, but the pig, of course, it's a stronger animal an you just hit it on the forehead, an you had to get it right... an that, so that you would stun it, an then you killed it-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an there was- of course, Norris in Wigtown, the butcher-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mmm.

DF: -it was old Fred- he was a Welshman, him; but, he got a pig too, he bought pigs-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an he came in his van, to get a pig, and- here, he'd tied it in the van, but here, he hadnae tied it tight enough, an the pig had- the doors- the back doors had opened an the pig had kinda half run oot- fell oot the van- its four wheels- its four legs were in the van, and its rear legs on the ground, these two hind legs goin like Billy-O, [56] an him goin down this lane- <laughs> he just kept rattlin on, an this poor wee pig, runnin on-

<Both laugh>

DF: -it wasnae until he stopped at the end to open the gate that he discovered this wee pig runnin like Billy- poor wee legs-

KR: Aye.

DF: -goin like- an a hink he got a pig- a hink he got a pig whenever he needed- o the two that was bein sold-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DF: -but he's- but, again, that- that was all- that was extra meat he was able to pass onto his customers-

KR: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

DF: -it's... an we had milk; we had milk, as I say-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -an the airmen used to be- supposed to be- do... reconnaissance? Is that it? Their exercises?

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -goin- runnin- goin a certain distance wi their packs on an everythin- [57]

KR: All right.

DF: -well, you see, some a them got fly, and... when we were makin the butter in the churn, they would come in- "you got any..."- make the butter, you know-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -they stood there; when they were finished, they got a scone and butter-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -an that was them, an a lot a them got fly because they knew what was comin-

KR: <Laughing>

DF: -the days that you- the days that you made the butter-

KR: Made the butter, yeah.

DF: -an they- if they were there they got to... they knew what they were doin-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -an, you know, they... och, you did, you got a lot a laughs an that over the years-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -to...

KR: So when did you get married yourself, Dolly?

DF: I got married- I was twen- nearly twenty-five when I got married-

KR: Oh. Uh-hu.

DF: -an that was from when we were at Townhead-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -it is now Sorbie Farm that, of course-

[58]

KR: Oh.

DF: -Townhead... I don't know why it got Townhead because on the old maps it was Sorbie Farm-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -but anyway, I got- from there- and here's me I thought I was gettin a rich man, you know-

KR: <Sniggers>

DF: - a lorry dri- his dad had lorries, uh-hu... he was worse than I was-

KR: <Laughs>

DF: -poorer than I was, but never mind-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -we got [x] [Ma-lyle?] Church-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -a lovely church- [Ma-lyle?] wee church-

KR: It is isn't it?

DF: -up in the trees an everythin, and just the hall for the- the village hall, for the reception, and then as many as you could a- as many as you could afford- I'll no say as many as you could afford, as many as the hall would hold anyway, but-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -it used to be in them days you had aunts an uncles, kinda, to the weddin, an then the cousins came at night-

KR: Okay, uh-hu.

DF: -an there was no limit in the hall, you know, you just got-

KR: Aye.

DF: -an that; an there was different people did caterin... the ones- Mrs- they had [59] Railway Inn in Whithorn... Mrs Robb I think it was, an they did the caterin-

KR: Uh-hu.

DF: -but you had more or less a straight meal, you know, you just-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -couldnae do anything else much in these places, an-

KR: Mm-hmm.

DF: -there wasnae- there wasnae the hotels used the same in them days-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -unless you were very well off-

KR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

DF: -financially... aye-

KR: That was fine, Dolly-

<General turning off the field recorder chat, and proposals of a cup of tea>