

Interviewee(s): David Chalmers (DC)	Interviewer(s): Melanie Chalmers Gibson (MC)
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REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballencrief

TITLE	<i>David Chalmers interviewed at Lochhill by his daughter Melanie Chalmers Gibson</i>
REGION	<i>East Lothian</i>
SUBJECTS/KEYWORDS	<i>School life; family life; working life.</i>
COUNTY	<i>East Lothian</i>
TOWN	<i>Longniddry</i>
DATE OF INTERVIEW	<i>12 May 2019</i>
INTERVIEWER	<i>Melanie Chalmers Gibson</i>
YEAR RANGE	<i>2019</i>
SUMMARY	<i>David tells of his schooling in Dalkeith where he attended primary and then senior school, even after the family had moved from their cottage at Castle Steads in Dalkeith to Goshen Market Garden at Musselburgh. He speaks about working with his father and brothers in the family business growing vegetables at Thorn Hall Market Garden in Dalkeith as well as at Goshen and tells of driving to the Glasgow Fruit Market with produce. During the Second World War there were prisoners of war working on the Dalkeith estate and David tells of how they made wooden toys in the evenings. David tells us of his encounter with tanks when he was on his way to school. David recounts the exploits of a friend of his father called Willy Mowat who was a forester, but at the beginning of the first World War enlisted and fought at Gallipoli then volunteered for the Lovat Scouts and went to Sinai. After the war Willy worked on the Duke of Buccleuch's estate as a forester and helped David's father to plant trees at Lochhill.</i>

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MCG: So here we are on May the 12th Dad we've (microphone clunks) been, it's been a little while we've last talked on the 20th April and we kinda talked a wee bit about your dad and, and where you were born. But what, what I'm wanting to do today's really talk about you were living in Dalkeith and you were the eldest of eight and starting from there when you where, when you where that wee boy starting at school. Tell me about.

DC: Well I started at school in 1944 and when I went to school in the morning I used to come out and walk round passed the stables which were actually connected to the house. And when I came out the men used to be getting the horses out of the stay, out of the stable and yoking up the implements and the German prisoners of war were standing waiting to start work and it was always, it's, we just took it as part that's part and parcel of life we, nothing, it's all we'd

ever seen. It's nothing, it's not like it was, it was just natural, just normal and we used to just look at them and didn't pay too much attention. We used go and have a blether with them.

MCG: That's amazing.

MCG: And this would be the prisoners of war?

DC: The prisoners of war, I, I thought they were quite a nice bunch actually. And they were very clever because they must've come from the Black Forest area in Germany because they were, they were always making toys, wooden toys they had lots of wooden toys and beautifully made, really.

MCG: What was that what they would do in their spare time?

DC: Well they had time at night they were sitting doing nothing at night in their little Nissan hut or whatever they were in. And they just had to, they just carved and of course being on the estate at Dalkeith they had ample wood, they could get all the wood they wanted for the sawmill was just on the other side of the road from us.

MCG: Of course.

MCG: That's amazing and that actually makes a lot of sense. I always love the story Dad of you saying that when these day's children get taken to school and get a bit mollycoddled for as you slightly just got told it was the start of school and off you went when you were five.

DC: Well once they'd showed me were the school was then once you knew where it was you just walked up to school in the morning, it was only a mile to school and you got on with it.

MCG: And that would be aged five?

DC: Yeah.

MCG: Yeah.

DC: And mean, I mean it was that was the only thing that used to, but that frightened me the first time I saw them were tanks coming along the road because they normally used to come up on the edge of the pavement and when I was walking to school there was only a pavement on one side of the road so that was the only way I could walk up to Dalkeith and when I heard the noise of tanks arriving roun, just ahead of me I'd never, I, I was mesmerised just stood and I thought gosh you know what, what's this coming towards me and I couldn't understand how they knew where they were going because they had no windows in them. Just, there was just

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a man sit with his head stuck out the top and, and that was it. And, and I can still remember, I can still remember a, against the wall with my back to them.

MCG: [She laughs]. Aw.

MCG: Aw you really, you turned the opposite way and put your back that was very clever.

DC: Aye I, I stood, I stood against the wall and turned away from them. And, and they went, they rumbled passed me and I can still remember it. When I heard them coming after that what I did was I ran across the road and got on the other side of the road or go through a gateway something out the way, you know.

MCG: Wow. Aged five. That's brilliant.

MCG: So you knew they weren't going to be, they were going to go on by but you may as well go and get a view point so you could watch them.

DC: Aye.

DC: Well they were going along to the army camp you see.

MCG: Yeah, that's amazing. So those were your, your primary school days where did you go to school in Dalkeith?

DC: At Dalkeith.

MCG: In, in the centre of Dalkeith.

DC: It was in Cross Street in Dalkeith and the only thing you could say was it was an education going to school because walking up to the primary school we had McCluskie [spelling?] who had the dairy with his cows and the cat, and, and the cows were getting milked and they were in the cattle court next to the school. On the opposite side of the road was the gas works which was right, right up against, it, the gas works at that time was up up the fence was the, at the gas works was on one side and school on that side! We, we were in the primary school we could sit and look at the gas works outside our and the cows being milked they were on the other side the road.

MCG: Wow. And, and the cows being milked.

MCG: And what was actually school, school like? How did the, you know, the sort of education then cos you met some of your really good friends there that went on through the whole of school with you that you've talked about. But your teachers, have you got any teachers that stand out during?

DC: Oh aye. I, I really, I really got to like the teachers, I really liked the teachers and they were perhaps you might say old fashioned. In, in, in fact when you looked at some of the teachers that I had at that time they were very like the archetypal teacher you could image with a tweed suit and a bun in her hair and, and, and, but very firm but very fair and I just I really enjoyed school. And when we started school we didn't have jotters or pencils or anything like that. We only had a little blackboard and chalk because there was no, the paper was short supply and all that stuff was short supply after the war, because of the war. So we just wrote and then we had to clean all our boards and off we went. And we got lunch at school and the

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lunch when we came, when we got lunches at school we ate them in the classroom in our, beside, in our desk in the classroom because.

MCG: Brilliant yes yeah. Brilliant. Oh did you?

MCG: And were they combs, were they cooked meals?

DC: They were cooked and you, we came into the corridor at the school and you, you got served. You, you had walk passed your plate.

MCG: Right.

MCG: What like sort of mince and potatoes or?

DC: Anything just, just very simple

MCG: Yeah and would you get a little pudding as well?

DC: Oh aye.

MCG: Yeah.

DC: But then once I was, had been at school for two or three years they built a, a hut or, or a building a small café kind of building in the middle of the playground and then we had our dinner, meals in there.

MCG: And would you just get to drink, to drink water or would it be?

DC: Aye.

MCG: Yeah.

DC: Yep.

MCG: It'd just be really straight forward then out to, to play football in the playground for a bit?

DC: Well when you, when you had your dinner you had the teachers were there as well having their dinner with you and they would walk round and if you, they made sure that you ate all your dinner. And if you didn't finish the dinner they would say 'What's wrong with you?' and 'You're obviously not hungry so you can't have any pudding'.

MCG: Right, isn't that interesting cos just after talking about zero waste there would be zero waste they'd all be on, on plates, proper china plates, knives and forks that would be cleaned and zero waste sort of no, no, yeah completely all together there. Did you get homework in primary school? Or was.

DC: Oh aye. And.

DC: You may have got little subjects to do at school but not, not real full, full blown homework until we were about 11 or something like that you know, ten or 11.

MCG: So when you wondered home after school would, would you go and play with friends or would be darting home to do sort of, you know, to, to home or.

DC: Well when we got home it was, it was about 19, the late forties before we got a television set and the television was very basic there was only BBC . . . news and channel and that sort of

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thing and just pretty ordinary Gardener's World that type of thing, Percy Thrower and all these. But there was, they were educational programmes in a way but we didn't watch much television then. And we came home and just would read books or listen to the radio. But we'd spend most of our time would be out running around.

MCG: News.

MCG: Just playing?

DC: Playing because we had orchards on the farm as well.

MCG: So is this in Dalkeith, at what point did you move to Musselburgh and you were started the.

DC: 1951.

MCG: Right, how old would you have been then?

DC: Well I was just, it was just when I was leaving the, the primary school and moving on to senior school that we moved to Goshen and at that point my younger brother and sisters all went to the local primary school both at Wallyford and Musselburgh, Musselburgh they went there. But I felt it was a mistake for me to change going into senior school, to a different school. I didn't want to change. So it meant that Margaret and I who, Mar, Margaret was the sister a year younger than me and we went back and we actually at that time had the house at Dalkeith still and we had the house at Musselburgh. So we used to come back, we used to go cycle down or go home we used to cycle back to Dalkeith, the house there, and when my father finished his work at Dalkeith he had a pickup car and he would take us back for tea to Musselburgh. And then at night we came back to stay in the house at Dalkeith.

MCG: Yeah, you, yeah.

MCG: Oh did you really?

DC: And then Margaret and I went to school in Dalkeith. But once time went by we all moved permanently to Goshen at Musselburgh which meant that we had to cy, I, well I, when I was cycling to school.

MCG: How many miles would that be? Is it about six or I mean I know it would be the back roads it would be kinda Wallyford and then round the edge of Dalkeith Park wouldn't it, Dalkeith.

DC: Well I'd six I'd probably have six miles to school and back and back again at night and then two nights a week I would have sports practice at Newbattle which is another couple of miles the other side of Dalkeith so I had eight miles to go back at night. Then I went to the Scouts on Friday night in Dalkeith so then haven't to cycle back after that as well. And then for something to do on a Saturday we often used to go for a cycle way up to fish and we used to go fishing to Rosebery (Reservoir), Eselaw (Edgelaw Reservoir) and.

MCG: Where's that, in the Borders?

DC: No, no that's away up passed to Gorebridge direction. Out, out in the kinda other side Edinburgh and we'd go fishing there and then sometimes on a Saturday we'd go maybe for a cycle run down to maybe Galashiels or something like that just for something to do.

MCG: No. OK. Yeah, yeah.

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MCG: Brilliant with all your friends. And what, when did you start helping your dad on the farm, when, when did that, what sort of age?

DC: Well, I mean when we went to, well when were actually at Dalkeith, before I went to senior school, we used to give a hand picking apples because you must remember that we had six orchards and during the war you could literally sell every apple you could grow so, I mean you weren't bring as much stuff from abroad so we were ... we boxed and the lorry, the lorry used to take loads of apples to the market.

MCG: Right.

MCG: Is it all of you actually through your teens or younger than teens you would start, you would be boxing up these apples and out.

DC: We're out pulling apples at the weekend and pears as well and plums, we had a plum orchard. So we had all that to do and.

MCG: The orchard at Goshen just, you know down from Wallyford, did granddad plant those? That whole, the, the, the fruit trees that were in there and that market?

DC: No, the fruit trees that were there when we got there, there was a small orchard at Goshen, but it was mainly vegetables and most of the vegetables we grew at that time were grown for Edinburgh Market down Market Street at the Waverly Market and we also supplied vegetables to Glasgow. But when we were going to Edinburgh the vegetables, we used to link up and sometimes the lorries used to come out from the market, the lorries from Aberdeen, Inverness, Dundee, Perth and Dundee, Dundee and, and Fife and West Lothian, Armadale. They came out every, each. each week they came out throughout the year and picked up whatever we were producing at the time whether it was lettuce and spring onions in the summer time or cabbage and cauliflower and then the sprouts and tatties (potatoes) and, and cabbage and everything all the year round, we were doing vegetables all the year round. We grew a lot of herbs, rhubarb and all that sort of stuff.

MCG: So it's a real market, yeah.

MCG: And they, and what's, at what stage you often talk about how you used to be able to drive straight along Princes Street without being stopped which is quite a difficult thing to comprehend now. But what age were you when you started driving the farm lorry and helping out with that?

DC: Well.

DC: Well I left school in 1956 and work, I had to, I was going to college but before going to college I have to do one year's practical on another farm, on a farm and you weren't allowed to work at home, you had to go to a different farm. So I worked for a year on a dairy farm so up at Tranent, you know, up in Elphinstone, so I had to go up there and it was a dairy farm and I, I cycled up there to start with until once and by that time once I was old enough, 17, I sat my test and then I got a pickup and I used to drive up to Elphinstone. And I used to, once I'd learnt, once I got driving we used to, the, the pickup could probably carry a thousand bunches of, of spring onions and we used to load it up, we used to bunch a thousand bunches of spring onions every night and, and then we loaded them into the pickup and I had drove through to Glasgow each day to Glasgow Market in the pickup when I was about 18.

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MCG: Brilliant. Wow. Wow.

MCG: So you were, this was when you were working up at the place as well the, and then you would come back and so you were really doing this whole mix of farming then but.

DC: Oh aye.

MCG: Yeah. A but you would be able to drive without many traffic lights Dad, you were able just to.

DC: Well there wasn't, there wasn't an awful lot of traffic lights there. There were traffic lights at Jock's Lodge and the.

MCG: Yeah.

MCG: So to go to Glasgow you would've gone straight through Princes Street through town out Corstorphine

DC: You came along Milton Road to the Jock's Lodge and when we got to Jock's Lodge, well that was when I was starting to drive the lorry, which would be a year or two later, I started driving the lorry through to Glasgow and although it was five o'clock in the morning, when I came along Milton Road to the lights at Jock's Lodge there was a policeman on duty at the police box at Jock's Lodge and if the lights were red against me he would just get his torch and just wave me through. And I've often thought try doing that today because you'd be on camera he'd be on camera, he'd lose his job and I'd lose my licence but, but once I got, once I got into, along to, through Jock's Lodge lights along passed Meadowbank and then up to Princes Street and Haymarket, Corstorphine and to Glasgow Market and it was possible to actually is not every morning but most mornings you could drive from Musselburgh to Glasgow Fruit Market right through the middle of Edinburgh Princes Street without stopping once.

MCG: (She laughs). That's brilliant Dad!

MCG: It's incredible and I think that is something that's, that's just you know that's that those are days gone by completely now.

DC: Well there wasn't, there wasn't the traffic around certainly at that time in the morning but there were, there just wasn't lights and all and there just wasn't the congestion they have today. In fact I can still remember driving along Prices Street on two or three occasions on really beautiful morning and I literally saw not one vehicle and not one person in the whole of Princes Street and I wish I had a camera I was stopped the lorry got out walked down Princes Street and taken a photograph of my lorry sitting in the middle of Princes Street with nobody there!

MCG: Amazing. That would have been yeah.

MCG: Amazing no that is, I men, that is brilliant and I wish you had had a camera for that. Talking about the time when you, you were doing that had, was there ever a time when you thought of studying something different from or was it always going to be agriculture, was it always going to be, is that what you focused on doing?

DC: I suppose it was. When we came to school leaving age we were told by the teacher that we were to be interviewed about what sort of course or career or university course or anything like that that we were going to go for and I wasn't really I hadn't made up, I hadn't really

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thought about working to be honest I was having such a good time and I came back home and I said to my Dad, I said 'Look the teacher wants to know what I'm going do when I leave school'. And I can still remember . . . I can still remember father saying to me 'Just tell her you're going to be a market gairdner like yer faither'. And I thought what I can't be as un, as uncouth as all that. So the next day I can still remember Miss Burns, she sat there and she said 'Well Chalmers have you thought what you want to do when you leave school?' And I said 'Ah well I'm going to join my father and be a market gardener.' And I can still remember, it's just

like yesterday, she leaned forward she said 'Chalmers if you're half as successful as you're father, you'll have done really well.' That's all I needed.

MCG: That's so brilliant. That's quite something so your dad was known around the county a bit with his, his, his personality and, and what he did for the, the community as well. He was just sort of.

DC: My father had left school when he was fourteen and he had worked in the Carron Iron Works as a.

MCG: Yeah we sort of touched on that.

DC: And, and he'd gone, changed career when he, he couldn't go to Chicago and became a vegetable grower with my grandfather and that was.

MCG: Yeah.

MCG: But he was really growing by this stage as such a huge, you know, you know, he really was growing his business from Dalkeith going to Musselburgh and expanding.

DC: Well when we first came to Dalkeith my grandfather had Gibraltar Market Garden which is about 20 odd acres and that was when I was born and stayed at Castle Steads and my father was passing the Palace at Dalkeith when he met Mr Ormiston the factor and he said to my father 'Thorn Hall is coming up for rent' he said 'Would you be interested?' and he said that. And, and he was a good, my father was a hard worker, he's a good worker. It's very particular you could see when he's doing his woodwork or whatever he's doing, he'd been brought up to that to do a thing properly.

MCG: Yeah. Yeah. That's right. Yeah. We, we it is it's brilliant I mean that whole sort of. Yeah, yeah, yes.

MCG: I was wondering actually when you mentioned about the, the prisoners of war if your dad had a chat with those, those people when, you know about the whole woodwork because he was you know, master in that, he could, I just wondered if that was, you know something that had happened at that time. Can I take you back cos there's another story (cough) Dad that I remember you mentioning about maths. Now maths is a subject that I believe, you know, that, that you quite enjoyed doing but there was a. Can you tell me the story about the, was there a, a, a sort of what was there a law or something in algebra. Yeah.

DC: Oh aye. He could well have done. Yeah. I like science.

DC: Boyle's Law. We had been doing science at school and we were doing Boyle's Law and Charles' Law at school it, and we got homework and the question was a question relating to Boyle's Law and Charles' Law and we had, and when I went back to school I had done my homework

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when I got home and the rest of them had done about two pages of, of working it all out and I can still remember getting back, went back to school and we were, before going to class I said 'Did you get that one there?' And they had all these great screeds of stuff and I had done it in about three or four lines on this, the top of this page I said 'What have you done?' I thought looked logical to me and I can still remember the teacher said to me when I went in he said 'What's this Chalmers you've done here?' Well I said 'It looked like the logical answer to me in this question'. He said 'Can you understand what you've done?' I said 'I can understand

perfectly' He said 'Well if you can' he says 'You've just loose, used Dalton's Law partial pressures' and we'd never had that at school. (He laughs).

MCG: That's incredible see. So had you never thought of going into something mathematical or, you know, had you ever thought of, of.

DC: Not really. I never regretted having, not having gone into vegetable growing. I just, whatever was going to go in for, I would give it my best shot really.

MCG: Yeah that's what you always have done all the way through. So those where those sort of years, what about, what about when it expanded on to, you know, your real working years, the early years in the market gardening and that must have made a big change for your, your father to suddenly have extra hands with his sons, you know, coming into the, into the workforce if you like into the farm.

DC: Oh aye. I think my father was really pleased that my brothers and I we, we got out, came into the job and got on with it. And we, we just worked and worked away at the job and made a good job, I, I think we made a good job of things. And we took a pride in what we were doing and we were, and my father was a good, he taught you what to do properly, you know I mean a simple thing like cutting a cabbage or a cauliflower might just seem nothing, but if it's done properly it just makes all the difference to what you're producing. It was like I remember Lowes where the biggest vegetable growers in Scotland when we were starting there more or less at Musselburgh. And Willy Lowe was in the market one day and he was complaining to the salesman in Lindsay's 'Why is it that you keep selling all Chalmers' cauliflowers, why are you not selling ours?' and his were all in and the salesman said to Willy Lowe he said 'I'll tell you what go across to that load of stuff from Chalmers' and pick any one you like out o' that box, any box pick a, a cauliflower' and he said 'And it was pure white in perfect' and he said 'Well you see that's what he'll get twelve of them in that box and people come in and that's why they're buying his cauliflower, they're not wanting.' Cos he was get, he had a lot of Irish workers and things like that who were pretty rough and ready, but we were making our, we were doing it ourselves because you must remember there was four of us there was Billy, James, Neil, me and Andrew Tait the foreman and all these people and wee Peter Patterson all shown what to.

MCG: Yes Dad that's right yeah. Gosh I remember them all yeah. That's true.

DC: And I can still remember it was, it was in doing the thing properly and making a really good job, cos you were selling something that somebody was trying to sell on make money from you jut had to make sure that you made a job o' it.

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MCG: It really is going back to the quality of what people expect now as well and without the packaging we were talking about that just you I think last couple of weeks ago how you had wooden crates how nothing was packaged it was all put in.

DC: Well all, all the crates we had were made, made in Edinburgh and the wood came from up north, Aberdeenshire, and we employed one man who repaired the crates and we made a lot of our own crates as well cos we had saws and, and stapler and all that sort of stuff in, in. We,

we repaired all the crates and kept them so there was no, there was nothing, there was no cardboard, no plastic, no nothing.

MCG: With the names on them. That's brilliant. Really. That's, you know. (Cough).

MCG: That's what I always think about a lesson in recycling we just kinda need to go back to those days and use and mend and do isn't it.

DC: I, I suppose to some degree when you talk about it's when you were brought up, it's the way you're brought up and I can still remember when I was quite young I'd only be, I'd still be in primary school and down behind the shed above the orchard behind the house there was a bit of rough land and I can still remember as quite a young laddie going out and digging and make myself a garden. And I went round to where they repaired the crates and I got all the broken spars and I made a fence like that. And then I would go round and if I found any plants in any of the empty cottages across at Thornybank, they were growing in paths and things like that, I'd dig them out and then plant them out split them up and I just got that interest in.

MCG: Och brilliant yes using.

MSG: See that is and that's what you're literally doing now when you're out there sorting out for the Aberlady Plant Fare it never stops it's brilliant. (Laughing) but it's brilliant. Do you know Dad while, while we're talking about that lovely time that you talk about with you're, the suppose you're brothers and yourself being young men but working alongside your dad my memory is, is, is that you grew up with these great friends of your dad's as well like you know Peter Wing who was the seeds merchant you go and, and you, your dad used to go off on holiday's up to Shetland and could you tell me a little bit about that cos that's, that's the richness of what also went on during that time which spilled over into your children's lives, our lives who we knew all of these lovely people can you tell me a little bit about, because there's Peter Wing but there's also, I'm trying to remember his name that chap does the, the, the who helped you build the woodland at Lochhill with your dad so a little bit.

DC: I never, I never, I never. I never moved on. That's right.

DC: Well I mean when I look back and think of some of the friends that my father had that was Will Mowat who was head forester at the Duke of Buccleuch's estate who was the, the man who helped us as much to plant all the trees at Lochhill. I never realised at that time that until I was at school at Dalkeith when I was change, when I was into the senior school and I walked into the school along to the gymnasium at the far end of the corridor we passed a woodwork class and on several occasions when I've gone, was walking passed there and the lads where doing their woodwork George McKechnay [spelling?] who was the woodwork teacher was standing at, with my father and Will Mowat.

MCG: Really?

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DC: Yeah, and he'd obviously got a bit of wood now a really interesting piece of wood and he'd brought it in and they were obviously talking about, they were just int, they were really interested in woodwork and just the kinda wood, types of wood they had and that's where, that's where my fath, my father even when, I can remember when he was working when he had winter nights or that sort of thing he had a workshop at the, at Dalkeith and he would go out there and he would be working away on something to do with wood he'd a lathe.

MCG: So, so that's how he met so it was actually a woodwork teacher at Dalkeith School. Willy Mowat at that point was linked with the Duke of Buccleuch's so the whole Dalkeith Park and he was coming in and then your dad also had this interest of wood so that's how that friendship began because. Tell us a little about Willy Mowat as far as because he's got a, an int an amazing history as far, through the war years does he.

DC: Aye.

DC: Well when I went to across to take, bearing in mind I stayed, when I stayed at Thorn Hall at Thornybank on the other side the road was the sawmill and the blacksmith's shop and I would go round on a Saturday morning and Willy Mowat would sometimes be in at the sawmill and Mathie Manuel who was the blacksmith would let me work the bellows when the men brought the horse in to be shoed on a Saturday morning cos they weren't working on a Saturday morning. They brought the horses in and he let me work the bellows and I can still, there's Andy away passed he's been at the, and he was, he would let me, he would let me work the bellows and I used to just enjoy that side o' things then I would take a walk around and watch the men sawing the logs, the trees where coming up and they, I mean they take, they brought all the trees up from the estate down in Dalkeith Palace there in the estate and they were brought in to the sawmill and Jocky Brown I can remember was the chap who had the horses with the big wagon on with the trees behind and there was a big pole stack, stuck out the back of this thing which you could extend depending on the [unclear] and on the back o' that pole sat Harry. Harry was a Ukrainian who worked in the estate and he was there and he was sitting end o' the pole and I can still remember coming home from school and if they were coming from, down from Dalkeith down passed I would run along behind them jump up on the pole with Harry.

MCG: Oh is he? Wow. Oh right yes yeah.

MCG: How brilliant, health and safety out the window! (The both laugh). That's fantastic so those where, you had a, so Willy Mowat was around at that time?

DC: And. And Willy Mowat, Willy Mowat was the head forester with Buccleuch estates and, but he had originally started his life as a forester at Scone Palace with Mansfield at Scone Palace and he started as a young man working and they were, they worked miles away from home so it meant they actually travelled on horseback way into the hills to work in the trees planting or felling or whatever they were doing and it was when he came back, when they came back at the weekend they stopped for a meal at the, in Scone and that was them they would have a drink and have a meal on their way back from their work for the week and that was they camped up on the hills all week and that's when he heard the First World War had started. And so they all enlisted the men all enlisted for the First World War and that's when Willy was posted out and served in Gallipoli and survived that obviously and, and then when he came back to Perth to the barracks the men had to recuperate and then were all being sent out to

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France and the commanding officer at that time came round and said that they wanted volunteers for a new company that had started and that was the Lovat Scouts and Willy thought well that sounds like the number for me because he'd been used to going on horseback and all that sort of stuff. And that's why, that's when he volunteered and he was trained as a Lovat Scout which is the equivalent of the SAS (the Special Air Service) and his first posting was to Sinai out that part in Palestine, that part the world in Sinai his first posting was

out there and he had to liaise with the commanding officer in Sinai and when he was travelling he was on horseback and he had to come right round the southern part of Europe right across and the, as the war came on towards it's fin, finale he headed through Greece to Italy to France and to join the forces for the final push across at the end of the war. And, but when he went to Sinai he had to link up with the commanding officer and I hadn't realised until I spoke to Lord Wemyss down there at Gosford and I said to him one day when he was on duty at church 'I knew a man who was in the Lovat Scouts'. 'Oh' he said 'Who was that?' 'Oh' I said 'That's Will Mowat' and I can still remember he said to me, 'S I know of him, I know of him' and it was only if you look at the plaque in the church in Aberlady where Lord Wemyss' father, Hu, Hugo Charteris was killed in Sinai and that would be where Will Mowat must've had to link up with Lord Wemyss' father in Sinai.

MCG: Yeah Mowat, Mowat. Gosh. Right, gosh. Right.

MCG: Wow, gosh how, how comp, that's incredible! That's amazing!

DC: And Lord Wemyss was a Lovat Scout.

MCG: Really?

DC: And he said that to me, he said 'I know of him.' Knut, I could never understand it. It was only when I looked at that and I thought that's it his father was killed in Sinai and that's where Will Mowat must've had to link up with his father as a Lovat Scout.

MCG: Dad I think we're going to stop there for today, but just picking up I'm going to write down I think next time we're going to get together we'll do an hour and we'll just have a chat and I'll love to hear cos you've got a couple of funny stories linked with Gosford estate and even the curling days but also touching on the wonderful, you know, sort of thinking about, who am I trying to think about, the motor bikes, growing up with gardening Willy . . . Mr Wallace I don't know [unclear] I'm wanting to capture some of those stories and then maybe going on to the famous cabbage case, do you think we could do that on the next one?

DC: Oh aye.

DC: Oh aye.

MCG: So we'll start, we'll start there from next time I'm going to write that down but thanks for today. I think we'll stop there.

DC: Thing is.

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