

Kendal Oral History group Interview R0060

Male born 1921

Interviewed March 1997

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P.1 Born 20.11.1921 at Longpool, Kendal. Doodleshire.
Moved to Underley Road, aged 6. Attended Castle Street School & Kendal Green School, then St. Thomas's School.

P.2 Senior Boys School. Attended (whilst still at school) for two years Allen Technical School for woodwork and metalwork.

P.3 Sport played up Castle Street.
Horlicks served at St. Thomas's. Free school milk.

P.4 School choir at Senior Boys. Daddy Escort choirmaster. Competed at Mary Wakefield Festival and further afield.
School trips to France. French taught at Senior Boys School, Latin at Grammar School.
Sat for scholarship at age 11.

P.5 Inglis exam. Staff at Senior Boys' School.

P.6 Father a soldier, then worked at Croppers on steam turbine; worked some Sundays as watchman at Croppers.

P.6/7 Living on Underley Road; newly built houses.

P.7 Longpool houses; neighbours.

P.8 Friend became "Boots" to Paget-Tomlinsons, Kirkby Lonsdale.
Local employers; Co-op.
Interview at K Shoes - Miss Hawkins, Personnel Officer.

P.8/9 Hours of work and pay at K Shoes.

P.9 St John's.
Joining the Territorial Army. Going to camp in 1939.

P.10 Called up into army Sept. 1939. Served until October 1946.
Training in the TA.
Serving in army at Silloth, then Kirkby Lonsdale.

P.11 Being treated to a meal out in Kirkby Lonsdale.
Posted to Kent 1940; digging trenches on Isle of Thanet during Battle of Britain.
Posted to Northumberland - Haltwistle; then Throckley, pit village.

P.12 Hospitality in Throckley.
Posted to Gloucestershire; Watford; Lowestoft.
Kitted out to go abroad. Sailed on troopship.

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P.13 Arrived in Durban; then Bombay. Journey took 13 weeks. Barracks in Meerut where Indian Mutiny started in 1857. Then to Ceylon; Terry Hodgson from Kendal commanding officer.

P.14 Spending Christmas Day and Boxing Day in Colombo. Back to India teaching jungle training to officers. Back to England, November 1945.

P.15 Back to K Shoes (Somervell Bros), November 1946. Youngest Company Sgt-Major in battalion at 22. Conditions in post-war K Shoes.

P.16 Went to work at Ibis; re-building of laundry machines; Mr O'Brien manager. Back to work for K Shoes at Low Mills, repair factory.

P.17 Departments at K Shoes. Greenside Choir; Zion Chapel Choir. Changes in making of shoes pre-war to 1980.

P.18 Mechanisation at K Shoes. K Shoes sports field, Parkside Road - cricket, tennis, bowling, golf. K hostel in Borrowdale.

P.19 Fellfarers spent Easter at High House, Borrowdale: Nelly Read in charge. Somervell Bros. Christmas party. Organising the entertainment.

P.20 Kendal Operatic Society. Beginning singing career.

P.21 Singing in village halls. Stories from Kendal Operatic Society.

P.22 St George's Theatre. Kendal Operatic Society moved to Town Hall, Leisure Centre, Brewery.

P.23 Travel with K Shoes Choir; Blackpool Festival. To Germany with K Shoes Choir.

P.24 Singing in Cologne market square. Funding the K Shoes Choir. Jim Noble's musical group.

P.24/25 Coming back from Crook riding on the mudguard of taxi.