

Summary of Interviews with Vic Howarth (#1 of 2)

Interviewee : James Victor Howarth, born 20 March 1930, partly with wife Pat Howarth

Interviewers : Irimi Tzortzoglou & John Batty

Date of Interview : 30 January 2016 Duration of Recording : 58 mins 30 secs

Approx time (mins)	Content
0 – 1¼	Introduction with full name and age; wife born as Patricia Mary Ballance.
1¼ – 2	Born in Croft House, Priest Lane, where he still lives.
2 – 3¼	Father Alfred Howarth born in Millom 21 June c.1890 [actually 1888]; mother Edith Marguerite Stamper, known as Daisy, born in the Sun Inn at Coniston.
3¼ – 6	Father a Captain in Lancashire Fusiliers in WWI, won Military Cross on the Somme; after the war, emigrated to Canada but didn't settle (poor crops) and returned c.1925/6 initially to Millom, then briefly to Barngarth and later to Priest Lane.
6 – 7½	Father was a Rating & Valuation Officer, so was mother's father, and mother worked as secretary for each in turn.
7½ – 8½	One brother Philip born 6 Nov 1919, went to Canada with parents aged 2, was officer in Bengal Sapers in WWII.
8½ – 10	Uncertainty over when father ceased collecting taxes (local rates), probably when he moved to Cartmel.
10 – 11	Early memory of being pushed in a pram, pushed by Miss Lancaster.
11 – 16½	Memories of Primary School; three classrooms; teachers Miss Steel, Miss Brennan from Grange succeeded by Mrs Dilkes, and Headmaster Geoffrey Castle; school catchment area; types of lessons; no school diners; educational films.
16½ – 18	School friend Frank Laisby and his family.
18 – 19¾	Playing games when not at school.
19¾ – 21½	Cartmel Park; Race meetings only on Whit Monday; Cartmel Show equipment stored by Mr Hulme, but used as a children's play area.
21½ – 28	Descriptions of Children's outdoor games – Nerky and Guinea Pig.
28 – 29¼	Making model aeroplanes.
29¼ – 30½	Local papers and delivering them.
30½ – 33½	The Working Mens' Club in the Institute; description of facilities; caretaker Mr Bell.
33½ – 35½	Differences in the village since the 1930s : now much smarter looking; used to be a self-contained community with every type of shop and trade.
35½ – 39¾	Description of some buildings around The Square; District Bank, Bank Court, Fish Slabs, Sid Hull's grocer's shop, Henry Teasdale's grocer's shop also Post Office; mention of another nearby shop Mrs Warrenner's general store.
39¾ – 41	Old Police Station in Priest Lane already a private house; Another former Police Station on Haggs Lane, lived in by Mr Key.
41 – 43	Finding unexploded incendiary bomb on Hampsfell, directed by Jack Castle to take it to Mr Key at the Police Station, who buried it in the garden there.

- 43 – 46½ Memories of wartime; apart from rationing, children didn't notice much different; occasional air-raids aiming for Barrow dockyard; improvised air-raid shelter; damage in Allithwaite & Grange mentioned but none in Cartmel village; no end of war street parties, just family re-unions; brother returned via India with his wife.
- 46½ – 47½ Teenage drinking negligible except remember when sledging, older boys would buy bottles of cider through hole in the wall at the back of the Pig and Whistle, and take them back to the sledging slopes to share around. Former name of the Pig and Whistle was Devonshire Arms, but even then always known as the Pig and Whistle.
- 47½ – 48½ First experience of going to pubs (under age) was being taken by cricket team to the Kings Head.
- 48½ – 53 Comments on 4 pubs in the village; Devonshire Arms not the only one with a nick-name, the Cavendish Arms was known as the Kremlin, the Royal Oak as the Oak, and the Kings Arms as the Kings; description of inside of Cavendish Arms, which had no bar and drinks were always brought to tables in small rooms by Joe Irvine, who usually spilt some on the floor en route.
- 53 – 54¼ Origin of Vic's nick-name Sam, after Sam Burton, a good bowler at the cricket club.
- 54¼ – 57 History of Vic's house, Croft House, in Priest Lane, and mentioning other houses there with Croft in their names; his father initially rented it, and bought it when the owner Mr Burrows, died; discussion of old photograph before two cottages were converted into one house.
- 57 – 58½ Cock fighting mentioned. Conclusion and agreement to a 2nd interview.