

**After Hiroshima Project**  
**David Clark interview transcript**  
**14.05.16**

Interviewee: David Clark (DC), born 16.01.1932

Interviewer: Vic Sowerby (Int)

DC: My name is David Clark erm, do you want me to spell it? D-A-V-I-D, David, C-L-A-R-K without an E. And my age is.. 83 and I was born in the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1932.

*Interviewer: erm and where were you born?*

DC: I was born in the Lion Inn, the well, the Lion Inn which is just off of Westminster Bridge Road, er adjacent to, erm St Thomas's Hospital, very close to there.

*Int: so you were...erm, born in 1932 so*

DC: and I was a twin and both of us were not very well. They thought I was gonna, actually, not make it, but I've survived

*Int: erm and you...so towards the end of the War, how old were you?*

DC: I would've been then er, what, er, I'm looking, er, what 13? 13?, yeah 13

*Int: Ok and where were you living?*

DC; or 14. 14 weren't it? I dunno it's (UNCLEAR) Japanese

*Int: So in 1945 you'd have been? 13?*

DC: Yeah I was, yeah

*Int: erm and where, where were you living at that time?*

DC: Up at that time I was living just off, [unclear] Estate which is just off of erm where the Old Vic, or where the ambulance station is now...

*Int: so, in London*

DC: ..in Waterloo Road so

*Int: Waterloo?*

DC: Yeah, yeah, yeah

*Int: Erm..and*

DC: We was living in erm the road which was erm Pearman St, which was actually a being knocked down to build the flats so, then we moved into the flats...the LCC flats at the time, which was one of the new projects in the 1930s

*Int: And what erm, what was it like being in London during the, the end of the war?*

DC: At the end of the war?

*Int: Yeah*

DC: Erm, well it was adventure

*Int; Was it?*

DC: it was adventure to me, erm, you know as I say I'd, I'd, it was, I mean it was very dangerous, I mean, soldiers were coming back to the Union Jack Club in, in erm, Waterloo. When the bombing was on, they says "we're not staying here, this is too dangerous. This is worse than being on, (laughs) you know, elsewhere", so they was running away back to their barracks and that

*Int: Did you feel in danger at the time or just the, kind of, arrogance of youth?*

DC: Well, I understood it but it didn't mean a thing, it didn't mean a thing actually. I mean I used to collect..shrapnel as it was falling out of the, out of the, you know, and collecting it, put it in me pocket and me mum says "you been collecting shrapnel?" I said "no", she said "well why've I got all holes in my po (laughs) in the pockets?" (laughs) so I mean this this this was it but I played on the, in the er, er in the damp er you know where the houses were built and the....you see so, there's lots of adventures. Er. We used to go up one house and go across, through where the fireplace was which was only one so to the next house because there was no stairs in the next one. And erm, police come one day and I'd gone up there but I didn't realise that you couldn't go down the house there. And we're running down the stairs, I'm following other boys. And course, they've managed to turn round on the end of one of the flights of stairs which was...three flights up and then...suddenly there's no stairs in front of me and I've gone down and I've just gone in a pile of debris..slid off of it and just...nothing ha (laughs) nothing happened (4.09). so that was the sort of thing. Playing on the, on the, erm, the big areas where the basements, they filled up and during the war were the water supply for, you know, the fires and that, you know. Emergency er, er, so, so there was plenty to do cos, cos there was no school. Cos the schools had moved out see

*Int: so, the school...you weren't at school?*

DC:we wasn't at school cos...there was no schools, cos they'd all been evacuated. So at the end of the war, actually for victory over Europe, there was no school, it wasn't until after that, then of course I did get evacuated, to mid-Wales after that erm

*Int: so when, when, when were you evacuated to wales?*

DC: erm, it was, was, when I was, would've been about 11, think it was for sort of bout a year, year and a half, two years, and it came back for the, for the doodlebugs and V2s and then course the end of the war and erm as I say but..Victory over Japan, I mean it'd finished here so, we were, we were getting back on our feet so there was no, sort of danger, I mean, once Germany had, erm, you know sort of you know..

*Int: capitulated*

DC: Surrendered..then erm, as I say so everything started to go back to normal but

*Int; so did you feel by so war finished...European war finished in May. By August erm, did, did you feel it was all over?*

DC: well there was still, we were still, there was work, I mean in London you still carried on. I mean, things didn't stop because of the war, there was no...I mean it stopped immediately if you had no electricity, you had no, no, nothing doing until it was cleared up but er, so everything was back to normal. Rationing. I mean it's...this was the only thing, yeah rationing. But erm of course we knew, that some of our soldiers were still in Japanese concentration camps, things like that so when er Hiroshima did, you know, we heard about it erm and you know, not, they didn't tell you too much and then course when we knew...when it happened, erm there was, there was, you know, there was lots of rumours going around and then, erm as I say when it did happen , it was quite, you know you, you, it was a surprise but then er, cos there'd already been... we knew about the erm, the bombing the dams was to stop the nuclear, or at least the, that sort of thing so you, it was always..things that they were trying to stop the Germans doing (7.10) which would've been....same, same to us probably but the difference is that...erm, we were you know, erm, that you know, we was pleased that the war was over because it would've escalated because of all the islands that the Japanese had over, you know, sort of...taken over, we knew it would've taken the time but course, that did it. By doing that it automatically, the, erm, the Japanese then did, you know, sort of surrendered and did, you know and it was quite, quite quickly done.

*Int: so did you feel....you say, you say you heard erm, rumours*

DC: yeah, yeah

*Int: what, what do you mean by that?*

DC: well, you know, about the heavy water and this is, it was, it was always things that you know that there was, that there was something, you know, they'd talked about atomic, atomic bombs so....you know, the bigger bombs so it was , it was always, there was things that you know, that come through...

*Int that had been talked about before Hiroshima? There was an awareness that this thing was coming was there?*

DC: well they didn't know where or they didn't know...you know they were talking about, about the Americans were talking about the, you know Hiroshima sort of thing. Well not Hiroshima but the...atomic bomb, and the special flying what special bombers, the flying super-fortress to actually deliver you know the sort of things like this then...so of course you're already...there was sort of...things that saying well....you know this is, this is something, well you know...And they, course they were tested, you know before..so they...if you...anyone, my..one of my sisters worked in the Admiralty so..there was(laugh) there was, you know

*Int: did she, did she come home ever and say anything...did you, did you feel that she'd said anything...did she have an awareness of what, of what was going to happen?*

DC: no but you had... there was lots of things that sort of led, led up to, you know, what was happening, sort of thing you know...Wouldn't be direct. But you know that, there's...they wouldn't tell you directly but there, as I say, cos it's only, oh, you know, there's, there's something on and er and so even, during the, during the war even different things were happening and you was asking about...certain people...in different parts of the country. You'd know that the shipping, there was shipping and there was something moving and you

know, sort of and different things, back up...you know so cos it's....and and...you did get, sort of wireless messages saying where the front line is...and what's happening in different countries so you knew that... and course, Pearl Harbour and that. So of course, that was you, you...that was all in the news so...and you know it, it's it's...and, and...you know, you knew that there was, there was something else but..and you didn't know the total devastation that it caused and when you realised you'd think to yourself well, it's cleared massive areas and then the nuclear effect of it you know (10.36) then you...and the people...cos they did...straightaway the news was on saying, you know... these people, they're suffering..but they're gonna die because of the radio er effect, you know the effect, the effect of it. Of the nuclear blast sort of thing.

*Int: and so was that, was that reported straight away, do you remember...*

DC: more or less yeah yeah...I can't think, it wasn't, it wasn't sort of erm you know, it wasn't held back you know then because it was, it was, you know, front line news, you know, it's finished the war! So, so, so, nothing was held back then and course, you know, I think people were ready to, to, to, you know, to accept it but er...

*Int: for it to be over?*

DC: yeah yeah, to be over, yeah yeah

*Int: erm, when you, so, the day that, the the the, Hiroshima was reported, you said it was front page news...*

DC: yeah

*Int: do you remember...either reading about it or hearing about it?*

DC: hearing about it I think, it was on the news, yeah. Think it was on the news. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Then, in the news...because we used to go to the cinema...used to go to the cinema and it would be on the news, newsreels, so they had the newsreels. Which we used to

*Int: so you saw the footage?*

DC: yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, so

*Int: and was, was, was, was everybody talking about it?*

DC Well yeah, they were looking for..to finish, to finish, abruptly cos we thought it would last...you know because of all the islands, you know to clear up all the islands, what they were talking beforehand...how long it would take...then of course you had all the different ones, islands that you heard they were fighting and then we had taken over here and then the amount of, you know, Japanese was strung out or was still holding out so there was always news coming through of what, what, what was happening, like your, your films now which show, that was, you know, again, things like that...not showing anything to identify but it was...telling you what was happening...yeah, yeah, yeah

*Int: so you, you had a a a an awareness of what was...*

DC: an awareness that they'd...

*Int: ...going on in the pacific*

DC: ...made a landing in certain places, certain islands and different things like that so...and er..but all names had changed and you know...names change but, you know and er...I knew...as I say we had someone come back (13.00)...you know, a neighbour who was in the..in the jap..the prison camps...the Japanese. And when we see him come back, the state they were in..you know...was like a skeleton and you didn't realise that...I mean, the, the, the ones that were in Germany...um, you know, they come back, sort of not too bad...erm, you know, I mean they did...depends on where they were, some of them never come back at all, some of them, but when, when they were coming back from there and the way they'd been treated as if they...I think again it was because the Japanese were different to the, to the er, the English, totally so because of course there was no, they were foreign and I think this was the attitude then...and cos it's like us with the germans, we, we was against the germans but now you accept some of the German people as, you know, neighbours, but at the time you, you know, you had no time. And cos I did lose a..elder brother in the war..in France before the, before the, you know,,at the beginning of the war so...er

*Int: your sympathies were limited*

DC: eh?

*Int: your sympathies were limited*

DC; yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

*Int: So was it...so your neighbour who came back from the Japanese camp...*

DC: yeah, yeah, yeah

*Int: He was, he was, kind of...noticeably...*

DC: and he never worked afterwards, he never worked...as I say...I mean he was like a skeleton and...what damage...his body damage he had done and mental, mental...the mental sort of, effect on him..you know

*Int: and do you remember...seeing him..*

DC: ...and on his family...

*Int: ...when he came back?*

DC: yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

*Int: And, was everybody shocked? What was the...*

DC: I was sho...well, all the..everyone was shocked..you know. When they knew he was coming back they looked forward to seeing him. And when they saw him, they were...this is not...it's a skeleton, you know what I mean? And er, as I say they, when Hiroshima did happen, you know this was, it was, you know, it was thankful that, it was..a quick cut off actually. But you realised then what they...even the Japanese.. people had, actually...in Hiroshima..their lives was.... And you're seeing this in wars now...you understand a lot more...overall picture...er.

*Int: yeah. So do you think...that, erm, that you...thinking back to that time you know... just after the first bomb... and the second bomb*

DC: yeah

*Int was the general feeling, kind of in your house, or in your street, erm, that people were...pleased? Or...*

DC...pleased the war was over. What they were worried about (16.00)the fact that the bomb could've been...not that...if the Germans or the Japanese had the same thing, it would've been the same, in reverse. So this is what you, you know, you then was looking...and I think that's why a lot of people then...you know, wanted to close the air bases which were, you know, to do with, the erm, the nuclear bombs, you know, so so er

*Int so immediately in 1945, people were already thinking...*

Dc: yeah

*Int: ...we don't want to be using...we don't want that used against us?*

DC: no, no. or we didn't want it to be used against anyone **(16.43)**.

*Int: again?*

DC anyone. We didn't want it to be used and that's why, you know, at the time...because this was something totally new...and we didn't know to what extent...then you heard the stories of even people, the er, that were miles away on the islands, they were, you know, were testing, you know, sort of, equipment and stuff like that. And they were affected by the, er, nuclear, effect of the, the radiation. It was more to do with radiation and not, which wasn't controlled and...how long...this is what I said, well...how long before you can go back in these areas...they said...well we can't go back in these areas even, you know because...without sort of erm, being dressed, you know, sort of erm, with clothing to stop the nuclear effect on them. So of course it was...it was worrying. And of course you're saying so, what happened to the people that were close by land and, course now you've got your nuclear sort of erm, power stations, course it made people, even at the time think, well, what was this...if it had been in reverse, well then we would've had the same, had the same effect so, and I say you accepted, you know because, what do you call it, you know, when they tell you something, in the news...it's already aimed a certain way so...

*Int: propaganda?*

DC: Propaganda. That's what I'm trying to think of. Propaganda. I was trying to think of the word. It's alright now.

*Int: so the propaganda was that it was, that it was a good thing or that it was something to be fearful of?*

DC: well, the war was ended and it was, it was, you know, being on balance, it was you know a good thing that...you know, that this had happened...that we was able to do this and you know praising the people that had worked you know on the, on the, different projects to, to make it happen. You know and it had saved many more lives, you know...(18.53)

*Int: and then, three, three days after Hiroshima, then, then the second bomb gets dropped and is that...is everyone...what, what, what's the reaction at that point?*

DC: well the, the, I think people...

*Int: or does it all kind of roll into one?*

DC:...said well, well, you know...there, there...cos Hiroshima was, was erm, it didn't, they didn't declare straight away did they? No, cos the ships went out there....

*Int: so you have Hiroshima on the 6<sup>th</sup> of august and then, I think, three days later they dropped the second one*

DC: yeah

*Int: then...*

DC that's right

*Int: then they surrender*

DC yeah yeah yeah

*Int: but there was no feeling that..you know...why have they dropped another one or was that just part of "we've just got to end this"?*

DC: yeah, it was just the, the final, you know, emphasis, I think you know. This was the quick way, erm because they couldn't see that, with the, you know, the Japanese military you, it would've taken, you know, months and years maybe even. But it, when it, when that happened, and they, you know they declared peace it was, it was...you know and all they hoped is that it would get out to all the islands and it would stop there. But I think some places even it was, it didn't, they'd probably radio did get through but, it could've been that you was just a few hours on the wrong side of the declaration, sort of thing.

*Int: yeah. So given that, erm, so then er the peace is declared so VJ day, was there any...do you remember that?*

DC er. Er

*Int; apparently there was lots of street parties..?*

DC ooh yeah, there was yeah yeah, yeah, yeah

*Int; was...*

DC Yeah I remember it yeah, yeah

*Int: did you go to one?*

DC there was big, big big bonfires on the bomb sites you know, where they'd been er, and er, as I say, I was surprised that some of the erm, fireworks that we had were the military erm flares and stuff like this and I thought: where did they come from? (laughs) so they'd they'd they'd come through because we had really a good, you know in front of, you know where the little park is opposite the, the Old Vic theatre, you know by there? That was, that

was all a bombsite, that was totally flattened there and there was, there was a big fire and as I say there was guys (21.35) come along and they said: oh we've got this, this er ....cos people had fireworks, there were some fireworks but it was more than fireworks they were...you know, like the, it was like the, like you had on the, you know, river, you know, there was flares...bloody hell look at that..cos they were the flares that they used, you know for, erm, lighting the battlefields and stuff like this and so they were sort of, using them

*Int: Huge fireworks*

DC: eh?

*Int: Huge fireworks?*

DC: Huge fireworks and I say, they were probably dangerous an all some of them. But no it was, it was good and everyone was dancing, dancing with everyone and course, I mean you had all the Union Jack club at the, Waterloo there and so of course you had all the, the army, different, all the different places and Waterloo station was always full of American...and Canadians and, you know, as I say, all the pubs were full up so I mean, yeah yeah, it was a good celebration so, and er everyone was dancing with everyone else and er with everyone else's wife and I think it was (laughs), er no it was a celebration of, you know of coming back, all the soldiers and that coming back to, you know, I mean as I say, it shocked you when you saw the after effect of some of the people that, didn't, you know, didn't have it so good.

*Int: so, the fireworks on the, outside the Old Vic, were for VJ Day?*

DC: yeah, well, yeah, yeah

*Int: That was, that was the party yeah, yeah?*

DC: Yeah

*Int: Amazing. What was your... Were you working at the time, were you still at school?*

DC: No, I was, I was, I was er, at school, and then I was at college, so I was not working, not until 18 you see, so.

*Int: What were you doing at college?*

DC eh?

*Int: What were you doing at college? (23.37)*

DC: I went to the Cordwainers Technical College, the, the shoemaking and the leather trade actually, so. And er I was, as I say. Of course then they had... But time goes so quick. I was sort of starting to court. I had met a girl then so I was, my time, a local girl so I was split between me old school mates and, and er, I was courting so..

*Int: And, er, and so 1945 you were, erm, how old were you? 1945?*

DC: Erm, well we said er

*Int: 13 we said didn't we?*



DC: 15 weren't it? 15, 16 yeah. Yeah, yeah.

*Int: Erm, so after, erm, so the war ends and you're in London, erm, at school and then at college. So did you er, kind of, going into the 1950s, got married? Did you?*

DC: 55.

*Int: Right*

DC: 1955. But no, but I was not well, I had a, a, probably nearly had a heart attack actually so. I was in hospital. Three months complete rest and three months convalescent. So with TB cases and heart cases. So that took, most of, the, half the year out so that was at 16, going on 17. Yeah

*Int: Oh dear. Erm, so, so, you kind of, eventually, got married, got, got over the illness erm*

DC: yeah

*Int: Kind of, throughout the 1950s...*

DC: well you had 1950s. Don't forget you had the, you had the South Bank, you had the, the, the, you know, the change there where they built the, the theatre, cos it was the Festival of Britain wasn't it, you know

*Int: yeah*

DC: so, it was a lot of change, there was a lot going on. And er, as I say, and then, all the parks had lights and erm, the er Battersea Park had, had the, a walkway and different things like that you know. Lit up and the zoo and what have you... so there was...lots of change, lots of things and cos (26.22) they were trying to bring it up to date, course there was a lot of work still, wasn't it, see? Employment. Changes in, I think in, in office work. Because then they started to get new ideas erm from the older systems. Some people hadn't moved and some people gradually moved. Television started to come into the picture...properly innit see so..

*Int: And where were you erm, working? So you've, you've qualified as a shoe maker...*

DC: Yeah, yeah..

*Int: And then where were you working?*

DC: I, well I worked at a, actually at Camberwell Green, well just off, past Camberwell Green, going up to Denmark Hill. Erm, so where I'd been at the special school which is, erm, which was, by the car park of King's College Hospital, where that is, in erm, Venetian Cariscot Road, so then I was, got a job back at erm, oh what's the name? Gilbert and Melish which was a, erm, a firm based in Liverpool but it was a shoe maker, making surgical shoes. So I started there but then I went on to Masters because you know. it was only a small unit and, you know only a shop, with a, it was like an off branch, so then I went to Masters which was at the front of Old Kent Road and New Kent Road, to, erm, do again, the same thing making, surgical shoes, or a part of it. Last fitter and er, so I was fitting the last, to people's feet from the measurements. Sort of doing different things. So and then went on to, after that, as I say, when that firm went down, er they moved to Grange Road to build the

flyover....I moved to..... And then I went to Roehampton to make artificial limbs cos that was the, cos they wanted someone who could do the leatherwork, which was and cos I was using the hand sewing and leather hides stuff like that and moulding and stuff like that cos I was used to working with the, the hides and the leather (29.03)

*Int: That's amazing bit of a career, career shift*

DC: yeah, so.

*Int: So in the 50s, you're still, still making shoes?*

DC: I was?

*Int: You were making the shoes*

DC: Yeah, well you're looking at: 48 I finished the, the erm, whatsername. When I was 18. Cos then, then, I was er, I wasn't, cos they were going to take me in the army but I wasn't fit enough so they said "well we don't need you now, but we would've put you in the pay core". But er you know. You're fit but because of me heart problems they, they didn't want to know about

*Int: so you couldn't, you couldn't do it?*

DC: No

*Int: So you're still, you're still in London and are you, erm at that point, erm, kind of, start of the Cold War. Are you aware, erm, or do you think much about any kind of atomic threat at, at that point?*

DC: Well yeah. I think it was. I mean, they didn't tell you too much. But you could read between the lines and erm, you, you knew. Because even, as I say. Err. My, my mother worked as a cleaner to Field Marshal Tedder, which was one of the air marshals. So of course you heard little erm....so you know, you, you heard different things. So that's where I'm saying you know you picked up bits of.. information. Maybe not someone telling you, but you could hear what was going on through other conversations see..sometimes. So so. And my sister worked in the Ministry, I had a brother in the air, RAF. Erm, so of course, you're, you're looking at things, even, even then that you, that you know, which, which, which. And you didn't really understand, they didn't really, you didn't really know about the, the nuclear until the Dam Busters, when they told you about the bombing the, the dams. And of course you say, well why are they bombing the dams. Cos you know it's the power. Well you thought it was more to do with the factories. But what you didn't realise it was also for the heavy, heavy water wasn't it. The nuclear. And then sort of bits, fit together. You know, It's interesting you know that you don't realise at the time what the, what the aims were. Course you're looking more at all the jet engine, ooh the jet engine coming in. Because the doodlebug already had the jet engine and course we were looking, so, we were looking we'd got this thing, the jet. And the lightning. Gloucester Meteor I think weren't it So you're looking more at the, I mean, as a boy you're looking at the aircraft (32.26). Cos I used to do...My brother being in the ATC and then in the RAF, I'm looking at all the charts and the maps and things like this so it was, it was, to me it was adventure and learning. I learnt more after I left school than, than than I did before it actually.

*Int: So was your mum still a cleaner for Field Marshal Tedder in, after the war or was that during?*

DC: That was during, during, during the war, to the end of the war. Yeah.

*Int: And what was your father doing?*

DC: Well he was, he was an asphalter but he was working on the.. on a lot of military so we, we never saw him for a few days. And he was, he was an asphalter so they did, you know, working on the aerodromes and you know, military...different military places so...a sort of builder, you know. But he was in the First World War so I mean, he was older see, so.

*Int: so he didn't see service?*

DC: he didn't do service, he was erm.. No. It was only my elder brother who was eligible for..

*In: So er, so in the kind of, the Cold war period. 1950s*

DC: Afterwards

*Int: Afterwards. Yeah, yeah. So you say you were aware of the, you were concerned. What was...Were people generally feeling anxious? About, kind of, nuclear threat or? (34.07)*

DC: Not,not once we had it, no.

*Int: Right.*

DC: Not once we had it. And we know we'd destroyed the German, or at least, you know what their intentions would've been. I mean that was the, I think the rocket and the er, was, was actually looking at. Erm, you know the rocket that, would, would, for them, could reach us. Then they could've delivered a, not you know, same sort of thing but. Again knowing, when we deal about Hiroshima. And the area it covered. You say to yourself, well. And then if this had been, if you'd dropped it on a city like London. And then it was, it would, I mean you couldn't use that city for maybe you know 20 or 30, I don't know, how long you...I can't, can't remember now. But for a period of time. What a waste and what about all those people that, in that area. I mean the same with...Even if it had been, you know, Germany, or any, Paris or anywhere...you're looking at this. And I think this is why you know they're looking at, even today about, the nuclear...when America and erm, Russia are talking about the nuclear bomb, you know, what their capability is. And it made you worry, well. You know, this this could be, If you can reach with that distance, then nowhere is, nowhere is safe. And er, so that I think which can change your opinion when you're looking at things which are happening today you know. In the wrong hands it could be, you know, well where are you safe?

*Int: But you, but once we had a kind of nuclear capability you didn't feel, kind of, that erm..*

DC: It was a means, It was, it was good. Probably. But erm

*Int: so you didn't feel, erm kind of, vulnerable to, to a nuclear attack after, after we had it?*

DC: well I think you knew you could be because you would be a target. Like New York or any, any of the, you know, sort of the.. because you had all the, all the government here, you were liable as the capital city? Any capital city could be a nuclear target.

*Int: And did that, did that make you feel, for your own family. Do you have children?*

DC: I have children, yeah.

*Int: So for your own family, were you, when you had children thinking... you know, feeling anxious that, you know, what would the future hold for them? Or did you not...was not that something..*

DC: Well, well, yeah, (37.00) when you say you were anxious. I mean..after, after living through the war you were looking forward to, you know there's gonna be a new, you know...everything's gonna be...you know...fine you know and everything's gonna... you get all the opportunities and that...So what they were pushing then was to, to, to cheer people up so of course you then.erm, so then, you know.. After the war, you know, you know..what are we gonna do and all this you know... so all promises. And also travel then changed. So. And then you became more... I mean a lot of people come... soldiers had come back from the war had seen other places....of course other people had been isolated and never known outside their own back yard...suddenly realised there's other places in the world, where they would rather be! So of course, (laughs) you can understand then...Someone from Australia in the outback suddenly comes... travels the world and sees other countries and said well...go to the Mediterranean, well "why not, let's have a holiday" so course, you then, sort of started the. The, you know, the holidays, you know, flying to... of course we'd never thought of flying, you know. Or even going across the, the, across water, to you know...by ship really. So a lot of people then, sort of it developed and changed their old outlook and image of what's available.

*Int: so you think people coming, soldiers coming back, kind of, having seen other places really did, kind of, feed into the travel industry?*

DC: yeah, yeah, yeah. The good and the bad of... I mean they then, was able to balance this for themselves and say well, you know. Even the food here or, in America. Of course you had then the, erm American brides, the brides sort of, you know, sort of going all back to America. But not all of them did well, others did well, you know. Because they,They come over here with their cars and everything and thought they were well off til they went back home. So...And then you heard you know, different stories so. No, It was, it was a big change. Wars do change, for good and bad, so.

*Int: But, I mean, it sounds like it felt like a very optimistic time?*

DC: yeah, yeah, yeah

*Int: so by, so the erm, in terms of the erm, nuclear threat, the whole erm,CND campaigners?*

DC: yeah

*Int: did you, did you have an opinion about, about what they were doing? What their, the, protesters against erm, nuclear testing, nuclear sights, did you... (40.10)*

DC: well, my, my, my personal thoughts were...erm and this I can only say is that..I could understand what they were feeling, but then the military have got to do their, their job so, of course it was, you know, you could... and I think even now that,er our military, where we were a strong military country we've now gone down the scale to, you know... Where we were one of the leading...had a leading Navy...and sort of air craft...not so, er well, quite, quite good, you know in the top,top flight. Then suddenly changed cos, course, Germany had, sort of, pre-War had the top...they'd been mechanising the army and the whatsername..but then of course, after the war...then of course this changed and we had the that, but then they've cut back now to... But course it's a changing strategy because again the, the type of erm counter attack that you have for different instances changes as well and so you now have sort of rockets which can, you know you send a rocket with no, no loss of life to you to send to, you know, to thousands of miles sort of thing, so, so.

*Int: and so your attitude was very much "the army have got to do what they've got to do"...*

DC: yeah, yeah your nearest, you should still keep, you know...for your own protection...but then other things happen and you then are committed to, you know, sort of fighting other wars, and it's not easy, not easy erm situation to deal with or, on what side do you go erm?

*Int: So erm, what side did you, did you go on?*

DC: well this is the Cold War again isn't it?. This is the cold war and how it affected, and then, how it affects other countries as well, you know, so..erm..

*Int: so when you saw people kind of protesting and kind of cutting through the...*

DC: the wires...

*Int: the wires, I mean, were you thinking, what were you thinking about that? (42.44)*

DC: Well I think they were also thinking "well we don't want this, this nuclear". I mean I could understand, they'd been told well this is, this is, you know, this is liable to, to happen well then you're also a target, for, for other targets, you know, other people to aim at. You can understand how they thought well, this is in our back yard. So you, you, you did understand this but erm,... How to, to solve it was, you know. People felt strongly about it...you know.

*Int: I mean did you, did you feel strongly about it? About the fact that we had, you know, a nuclear base here?*

DC: No I stood back a bit probably, probably. I was a younger age probably. Erm, I think older persons would've been more, erm affected by, by it than a younger person actually. People with, with grown up children, with grown up families so erm..I think we had gone through the war, and we'd, you know. Course some survived, some didn't and you knew it was a balance of, you know. And so you just, lived your life and lived, you know, looked forward.

*Int: so you wanted to live a quiet, a quiet life having...?*

DC: well, live for...with some future. But erm, yeah, yeah, yeah.

*Int: I mean I suppose they might say, erm the protesters might say, well "we wanted to make sure we were going to have a future" not, not end up in a kind of, nuclear apocalypse which was why we were doing it.*

DC: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean that was the, that was the worry wasn't it? Yeah I mean, you know, you know "Are we going to get involved?" And We're half way between... Are we the launching place from one to the other or... You know. We'd be a target so. I think it was, it was because. And. America and us and as I say the, as I say I mean there was a big sea in between but then where do they go and course you know that they could've gone over the North Pole when if you realise... would've been shorter (laughs).

*Int: Do you think, do you think people like, like yourself who had, had lived through such a lot kind of thought...erm, I'm thinking about, about nuclear protesters...do you think people like yourself saw the necessity as it were. of, of. saw it as a necessary evil to have, to have... (45.33)*

DC: we didn't classify it as evil.

*Int: you didn't?*

DC: No, no, no. we didn't classify it as evil. We just classified it.. It was not, not a nice thing when you saw the... what happened. But it was like any armament that, if you're fighting someone you use, to win. In the situation, how it was. If you hadn't won the war then it would've been different story and erm, as I say, you was hoping that, that people would be sensible but then of course...erm, that's why a lot of people felt very strongly about it cos they didn't even want to go to... you know, they've lost families... which, which is happening all over the world now in different places. So you, you, you try to...erm, you you, to to survive you need to look forward. You hope for the best as I... this is. You know,. that something good will come out of it. So.

*Int: that's a good philosophy.*

DC: eh?

*Int: that's a good philosophy. So you just, you felt you were always looking forward..?*

DC: yes, yes, yes

*Int: ...and hoping for the best?*

DC: yes. Yes. Well you were during the wartime, in the darkest times you were always looking, for the, you know, something for the for the future and something better.

*Int: Now in terms of nuclear as a...nuclear power rather than as a weapon of war. Did you erm, have any thoughts about, about, you know the..?*

DC: the nuclear stations?

*Int: yeah*

DC: Well I did but then you, you realise that, we haven't got the mineral wealth. If you look closely, some countries have got mineral wealth and others sort of forms of..so when they

when they are talking about this or it was either the coal or fuel. how long will it last? Or petrol, whatever you like. Cos this was a big issue during the War and after the war and now it's still the oil fields..and also, if you need power to to run the country or something well, what, what are the answers? Erm, it's a shame that it's, you know, you got dfferent people's opinon. It's like the Wind power, where you had like erm mountains and you could build dams and you had the water force to generate electricity which some places had. Other places haven't got this so what do you, how do you...or solar power now. So we're looking at other things.it's gotta balance with sort of...Where you are and what you are .In the past as sailors we used sail power for many, many thousands of years in a lot of countries which is quite clean and say well, and the other things which are polluting, you're looking at the, the side effects and the atmosphere and so the wind power which I think is a good idea but then someone else will say well not, not on my doorstep. So it's the ones that would have no side effect or, maybe costwise I don't know. Long term would they, would they be, you know, worthwhile?

*Int: so were people, erm, you know in their 50s and 60s were they, alongside er considering a nuclear threat was there any kind of positivity about nuclear as a, you know, as a source of power or do you, do you remember anything negative? (50.19)*

DC: well after the war it wasn't looked as, so much. they weren't looking at it as a source of power so much. It wasn't even. Maybe in the scientists' mind or they thought well this is, this is, erm quite a big power source...balance it with the, the safety factors so I mean it's. it's gotta be well, well thought out and produced in the safest way. But then even the nuclear waste, you still don't know what's happening to this, you see so.. it's erm, and course people are thinking about this, more people, if it's on your doorstep. But if it's, as long as it's somewhere else.

*Int; Yeah. so it wasn't really er..*

DC: not at the time, not at the time, no. You didn't think of that because our coal, we had enough coal and there wasn't other countries which were industrialised so much. But some of them have got their own mineral wealth. America, China, they've got other mineral wealth that they can draw on.....

[omitted irrelevant section]

*Int: (52.30) So just going back briefly to the erm, kind of er, nuclear protesters, did you happen to, did you know anybody who was, was protesting or did you know of anybody locally...?*

DC: I heard of, not, not, you know I heard of people that were protesting. As to what involved I wouldn't, I wouldn't be able to say at the time but I knew people that, you know, who said that they was...protesting...

*Int: Really?*

DC: Yeah yeah yeah and I thought..well..But they, I think they were more...they were people in University more...but they probably as a working thing, you know, as a normal working place but then you went to...erm...I played cricket...and course you get to other places meet other people and...different people in different industries...and course you heard different

things of what they were working on see sort of...what projects they were working on and then and course they knew more about what was happening. So course then, cos they, they, in their balance they were looking at the same, the same sort of thing. They were balancing what the good and the bad. You know the good effects and the bad effects so that's what, why some of them were, were more, against sort of nuclear.

*Int: And why do you say that they knew, they knew more about it? Was it...that..*

DC: because, because some of them were, you know, had families that were involved in..maybe projects. You know you were involved with a project or you know...sort of thing.. or you done..because you go... In universities you're looking in, more at, other fields. You're looking at chemistry and maybe things like that and you're looking at, you know, other, other sort of, erm sciences. And course, you're looking at that and thinking well, you know "where's the pathway through this" sort of thing. **(54.35)**

*Int: And so you said it would be more university people who were, who would be protesting?*

DC: people, well yeah or people whose... mother and father of people who were in university so maybe they had the feedback from..their, their their sons and daughters...saying something and course then they decided...because they had the experience, that they would you know sort of protest against these, against this aspect sort of thing.

Int; so you said so, but you said it wouldn't be working people. So did you, did you think there was kind of a class thing about protesting or...did you not mean that?

DC: (long pause) well....maybe not...maybe not class but in different fields like...you see.. even, you had a lot of people that was in the music industry and stuff like that. They seemed to be involved either as, because it was a topic of the time, so they went there to, to be involved. Just as you had the people who...against everything or, you know against this and against that. They are not in a happy position. The bottom of the pile. That they want to, to influence...that they were there to be seen so

*Int: And it was the issue of the day so..*

DC: it was the issue of the day. Yeah. So, so has that helped at all?

*Int: very much so! (56.06)*

[omitted irrelevant section]

*Int: (1.02.02) what, what I didn't ask actually was at that time, do you remember...sorry, going back to 1945, what, people generally and you, your attitude towards the Japanese was? Did you...what, what, how did you think of them? I was thinking about the Prisoner of War coming back again?*

DC: well, that was after but during the War erm, you heard all, everything was happening cos we were losing you know, all the way, losing place and course soldiers were coming back, erm, the ones that could get back. The Navy was bringing, you know, people back. And course then, then, you know, you're sort of. In a way you're not looking at them as, as people, you're looking at them as a threat if you know what I mean. As I say because, you know. It was like even the Germans. Not everyone was, was, you know, the same, there



was, there was good and bad people. But some of them were very bad. And of course with authority and, sort of able to do things you know, sometimes there were nasty things happening. And I think it was the same thing, you know when you heard of bad things happening to, to people, you know. Unnecessary sort of, hardship and...you know, you're nothing, you know, your life isn't worth anything. And there's a question. You feel this is, you know, it's not necessary, you know, to, to behave to people like this. And I felt with, with that you know the...But then, I mean..cos pre-War you were looking at the Japanese...because they were making all the best toys. They would..as a youngster you thought to yourself "oh yeah, they're made in Japan" (1.04.21) And course you were favouring it. Afterwards..suddenly..you realise then that they were building up an industry to sort of, go along with Germany maybe.

*Int: so after the war you weren't quite so...*

DC: so in some ways, as I say, it was mainly the Germans that you were targeting. **(1.04.47)**

[omitted irrelevant section]

*Int: (1.05.18) so after the war, I suppose...there probably weren't...if you saw a made in Japan toy, would you er, did you have a different opinion afterwards?*

DC: Well yeah. Yeah. As I say yeah, yeah, you said "Made in Sheffield". So it changed. You know, made in Sheffield, you know. So as I say, you looked to your own, your own products more. But before, pre-War it was the, you know the toys were made in Japan a lot of the, you know the, little cars and clockwork stuff and stuff like this. That's interesting isn't it?

*Int: it is, yeah (1.06.06)*

(REMAINDER IRRELEVANT)