Pat Arrowsmith Interview
After Hiroshima Project
28th April 2015

Interviewee: Pat Arrowsmith (PA) born 02.03.1930
Interviewer(s): Katie Nairne & Ruth Dewa (Interviewer)

(0.00) *Interviewer: Um so my name is Katie Nairne, N-A-I-R-N-E, um and I'm interviewing, er could you say your name for the tape please?*

PA: Pat Arrowsmith.

Interviewer: How's that spelt?

PA: Well, Pat is P-A-T, it's not short for Patricia, I was christened Pat by two bishops, one of whom arrived late for the event, and Arrowsmith as, most inappropriate for a peace activist, 'arrow' as the arrows that you shoot, and 'smith' - all the same word, Arrowsmith.

Interviewer: Thank you. And please could I get you to say your date of birth for the tape?

PA: 2nd March, 1930.

Interviewer: Thank you. Um and I'm interviewing Pat for the After Hiroshima Project, er for London Bubble Theatre Company. Um so Pat, just to start in 1945, um what are your memories of the Second World War?

PA: Um I don't have any **(1.00)** very grisly memories, my father was a vicar who travelled around doing dif, different parishes, and happenstance in 1939 when World War Two broke out he was scheduled to go to Torquay anyway, so we moved from where we had been living er further up the coast at Weston-super-Mare to Torquay, in time to arrive there for the outbreak of er, fairly soon after we got there, World War Two, which er was er... Oh well no wait a moment, we got there in 1939, '40.. if you're interested in me after the war well then that comes later of course, er but er.

Interviewer: And do you remember any particular days in the war?

PA: Um well not especially, I can remember being very frightened hearing the bombers going over to and from Plymouth and occasionally stopping in Torquay on the way and leaving a legacy of some bomb damage. I suppose I was fortunate **(2.00)** because I was away at boarding school, not as an evacuee or anything but just because there weren't any girls schools that my dead parents, who were rather snobbish deemed worthy of my attendance in Torquay, um so I was bundled off to a boarding school near Newton Abbot, um, not all that far away, but er it was quite, it was into the country but actually as we learned later it was quite a potential target because there were military camped in the rather large grounds that had been the country estate of Lord So-and-so, the Duke of Somerset or somebody another at some time, and the school kind of had the grounds as well as the building, um, but troops had use of the grounds as well, and given that we English troops camped there and then they

became American troops and then they turned from being white to being black or khaki or something, and er so there was a certain amount of variety, but we were in fact more of a potential target than **(3.00)** I think any of us quite realised. The principal did because I've met her since then and she said it was all she could do to keep the school going at all. It was right opposite um where they had, the Americans had developed a hospital um so from that point of view it was something of a target, a potential target. But of course it was down in South Devon, it wasn't near any kind of industry or anything that would have been targeted by the Jerry bombers as we called them - Jerries.

Interviewer: And do you remember how any of your friends felt at the time?

PA: No, not really. I mean not especially. I mean I, er, when er what time you mean? You mean throughout the war, or...

Interviewer: Yeah.

PA: Well I mean it sort of varied a lot, depending on whether they had relatives, I mean one of the girls in my classroom um I remember her name, Barbara Windiot, and er, **(4.00)** her parents, when she was not at home, because she was a, well she became a boarder later at the school but, this is in Torquay, a part of Torquay which is an area known as Wellswood up near the coast. But it got, you know, the receiving end of some German bombers, probably coming to or from Plymouth, and her home was was was razed to the ground and her parents were killed and I think she had siblings and I think they they were casualties as well, but I can remember she came back to the school and we all sort of were told to be very sort of cautious and careful with her, I don't know that we were especially, but er I can remember interestingly perhaps I had er at the age of 12, I was able to choose whether I'd do Latin, which I didn't want to do 'cause I didn't see any point in learning the language of dead Romans, or Domestic Science which I certainly didn't want to do - there was a good deal more of that at home than I welcomed **(5.00)** with the arrival of the war and the departure of any kind of domestic help that we had, and um or German, and er I thought well after the war you know it might be useful to be able to talk to the enemy, um I actually had that viewpoint and I know because I kept quite a detailed teenage diary and it's in this diary that I still have that er I chose to learn German for that reason partly as it was a living language and I might be able to talk to the enemy when the war was over. I mean, this begged the question of who was likely to have won the war, I don't know if that came into it particularly with me over er deciding to learn German but I mean I definitely felt it would be useful to be able to talk to the people who had been the enemy.

Interviewer: That's really interesting.

PA: Well and indeed I did, I mean it wasn't long after the war was over that I went to Austria and places in Europe which, saw sort of cities that our, our bombs had flattened to the ground and so I saw Plymouth which was you know flattened to the ground um by the Germans and I saw Hamburg **(6.00)** that was flatter, if anything, flatter, you know, thanks to our strafing of Germany.

Interviewer: How did feel when you saw those flattened places?

PA: I think I just sort of took it for granted, I er it is very difficult to remember how I felt then, I mean I was interested, um. Whether I felt relieved that this happened when I wasn't around or whether rather the opposite you know that it would have been exciting and you know, something to think about that I'd been there in a Blitz. In fact I never was anywhere when there was anything that you could call a Blitz in progress, I was at home in the holidays once or twice when there was what was called a tip and run raid by German bombers, probably coming or going (mumbles) or from Plymouth, and sort of target it, you know, dropping in on Torquay on the way along with other sort of strategically unimportant towns. Um but you know, it was **(7.00)** just part of life, just as going to boarding school was, um, but I do remember getting very frightened and there was a system of preparing people for the German bombers arriving and doing whatever they might or mightn't do and the initial sort of warning that came through, and my father who was in the ARP, the Air Raid Precautions organisation, would get a telephone call and it would be then that there was something called a yellow warning which was the initial kind of warning that the Germans were in the offing and might sort of come closer. I think that, I think there were three, I can't remember what the second one was, but the third was red warning and that meant that they were sort of right overhead and they might do whatever they might be going to do, um. But I can remember being frightened in bed at night, lying, you know, when the warning had gone, you know, had happened, and er, but as I say I was at a boarding school **(8.00)** in the country and although it was more strategically placed than a lot of us realised at the time um, strategically you know um from the point of view of the enemy. Ah, er I was sort of not really in the thick of it and my, I had two elder brothers - my first brother who was about five or six years older than I, and he joined the Indian army and went out, assuming he'd be going into the Burma jungle which I think he would have done but perhaps fortunately for him when he was in, I think it was Bangalore, he developed peritonitis. Why, I don't know, I mean I don't think, I'm sure it wasn't a put on, he didn't pretend it or anything like that, he wanted to be a valiant soldier in the Burmese jungle I think, but that wasn't to be his fate. I mean he was put in charge of a slaughterhouse in Bangalore (laughs) - a slaughterhouse for feeding the troops that were stationed around... and the younger of my two brothers **(9.00)**, they were both older than me, but the younger one, Peter, was only 3 years older than I, he was just not quite old enough to be in the forces at all when the war ended, or else he was still at a sort of training base in this country, but he never kind of went out into the thick of it anywhere as my brother, the other brother, did... and if he hadn't got this illness, we would you know, possibly wouldn't be with us anymore.

Interviewer: Yeah. Do you remember how people felt towards the Japanese towards the end of the war?

PA: Oh well my mother felt quite strongly in this in as much as much of her childhood had been spent in China. She was um the daughter of missionaries, Plymouth Brethren missionaries to China, and when my mother was three years old um, it was a sort of tail end-ward aspect of the Boxer Uprising I think, in China, or associated with it and with that **(10.00)** period, but her parents and her sister were all stoned to death by bandits who came to the house where they were living and my mother only survived because her Chinese aman (the Chinese word for nurse) er hid her under a bed. But Gracie her sister got stoned, as did her parents, I mean what form

of stoning, whether it was sort of like St Stephen out there and people hurling stones or whether it was great big slabs of rock used to crush them I don't know, but it was some form of stoning that, you know, was how they met their end. And my mother after that was brought up by an aunt and uncle who were also missionaries in China and there they remained, and my mother remained there with them, sort of as though she was their daughter, living as their daughter, um until she was sort of pre-puberty age and came back to England and went to boarding schools and things in England until she fairly young in those days got married to my **(11.00)** father. But she was always very ah into things Chinese and Japanese you know, her childhood was all bound up with this and I don't remember a sort of hatred of the Japanese as such featuring... um... this may have been something to do with the fact that they were, both my parents in different sort of brands of Christianity in a way and brought up slightly differently, were extremely religious and evangelical and er you know, er knew all about martyrs for the faith and that kind of thing and I was brought up in that kind of atmosphere.

Interviewer: Do you think that um affected your attitude?

PA: Oh I'm sure it did - when I was a little girl I was going to be a missionary when I grew up, and er, I think um although I'm an atheist **(12.00)** in a sense of any kind of doctrinal belief, and have been for a long time, I'm sure whatever, you know, people might think of the stand I've taken along with many others over war and peace issues is not unrelated to the kind of ethical standards inculcated into me as a child via Christianity, you know, which I did believe in until I was about 12 I think, when I became sceptical and fairly soon an agnostic, or an atheist, one or the other - I never quite know which one to say I am (laughs)

Interviewer: Interesting. Um and can you remember how people at school might have talked about the Japanese, if they did?

PA: Not the Japanese as such particularly, no. I mean, we... I don't know whether we did talk much about it, it was just part of our lives you know, I mean, you know, you got confirmed and you did this that and the other and there was **(13.00)** the war and I mean I... I mean I was 9 when the war broke out and sort of 15 when it ended, so a large part of my childhood was spent just taking it, rather taking it for granted. But I mean, I can remember, you know, I said my, you know, dutifully I prayed at my mother's knee and so on - it was that kind of a family background in the form of Christianity - and as far as I can remember I'm not sure I prayed for the enemy or Germans as such, but I certainly was taught to pray for the outcasts in India, I remember. I mean I can remember quite clearly you know praying to our Lord for the outcasts, and I sort of knew what they were and what it meant and why they had to be prayed for, in a very broad sense. I mean, I was a child of about 7 years old, so I wouldn't have known in a great deal of detail all this - broadly speaking I mean.

*Interviewer: Um and had you heard **(14.00)** anything about nuclear weapons before 1945?*

PA: Er well, when was, was that the year the bomb was... no, I mean I don't think most people, well that's pretty sweeping but I mean I think the average people in a population of Britain didn't really... I mean the first we knew of it was a sort of, 'Oh

joy! A really big bomb has been invented which means the war is now ending' - the lads, you know, will come home. I mean I can remember that was my reaction quite a bit, I wasn't sort of initially appalled or worried, I mean I was, sort of 14 or 15, but I mean I'd become accustomed to us being at war and so on, and air raids, whether or not I was in sort of the worst of the air raids, which I wasn't, um, but when um you know this came along I mean I think everybody knew who knew anything about it at all, who saw the papers at all, or talked about it **(15.00),** realised it was an outlandish kind of weapon, that it was quite another thing from the bo-...the high explosive weapons that had been used, you know exclusively up til then, and the incendiary bombs that we got accustomed to. I mean we'd had a small bomb fall at the bottom of our garden, I mean, luckily for me perhaps I was away at boarding school when this happened, but I mean it's not a major device, but it was, it was a bomb of some sort that the pilots of the German plane decided to unload somewhere in Torquay or, his or her, well his, return trip from Plymouth (laughs).

Interviewer: Um can you tell me any more about when that bomb fell in your garden?

PA: No, I wasn't there, I was at boarding school - I mean I had er, my mother I think wrote and told me and you know sort of weekly letter exchange by the pupils to their parents at the boarding school and **(16.00)** similarly you'd get a letter about weekly back from them probably, and I think they, they were fairly casual about it, that they said oh a small one, one small bomb had dropped at the bottom of the garden and I was.. I can't really remember. I mean, I'd be being wise after the event if I said to you I was disappointed not to have been there or relieved, I mean I don't remember, I just remember getting this information and later on I, I got to the garden, these sort of... Torquay is, don't know if you know it all but it's sort of built on the side of a hill.. one, one of my paintings I think up here, one of them's done from the balcony at our house, built on the side of the hill directly where we lived and um.. what was I going to say? I've lost the thread, um, what was I middle of telling you?

Interviewer: Er the bomb that fell in your garden...

PA: Yes, the, a lot of the Torquay houses built on the side of the hill there had a sort of almost like a rampart wall **(17.00),** a retaining wall they were called, that kept the sort of steeply sloping garden in position really. My brothers used to build themselves little huts and make little nitches in, in, in this sort of undergrowth, and I can remember you know, playing in this and even being naughty and throwing stones at pedestrians walking below... an indignant pedestrian walker coming up through our garden gate to see what all this was - and it wasn't just a snowball that she had been at the receiving end of but a real stone - luckily no real damage was done but I was a bit wary after that (laughs). Vicarages had you know, quite a lot of them had great big sort of gardens and although this was a town one it was built on the side of one of the various hills that Torquay consisted of and had this steeply sloping garden which you couldn't mow the grass on much of it because **(18.00)** it was just too steep and it grew up into being a bit like a field on a steep slope, but I mean that's all wandering a bit from the point of what you want to hear I think.

Interviewer: Um no I was just interested in the bomb that fell and...

PA: **(18.20)** Just out of interest you might...

[goes on to look at painting of Torquay - recording paused at 19.03 then resumed]

PA: **(19.00)** Basically in the war, I mean I was listening a bit to the news yesterday and it was all about what the Queen and her sister did on VE day - well you might be interested to hear how I marked VE day.

Interviewer: Yes.

PA: Um, I remember saying to myself, well, I hope I'm never going to have another VE day to celebrate in my life, I'll make the most of this one. Now I was at Cheltenham at boarding school and we were supposed to do sort of lessons, prep or something, which we did in the morning, and I had done... we were allowed to have bicycles there and I had mine to collect from the station, so I went off on my own down to the LMS station and got my bicycle and brought it back and I thought in the afternoon, "Well, you know, I want to do a bit more than this, I want to go out and mingle with the crowds." I knew this was completely forboden um er you know but I, I **(20.00)** took trouble to, of putting some clothes onto a bush where they wouldn't be seen near the dormitory window I was going to go out of, or the window in, in the house um and I left this ajar and by, when we were all supposed to be going to bed or had gone to bed, um, I sort of unobserved by anyone else much, I wasn't, I hadn't any friends, I hadn't been at school very long, so nobody was particularly looking for me, or at least I didn't think they were, and I went out to this window, um... I had a room rather euphemistically called the playroom (laughs) I don't believe I did any playing in years... Anyway I found the sort of civvie clothes, I wasn't going to wear school uniform, I'd left some mufti - you know some non-school uniform, jacket and this and that - under bushes not that far from the window I decided I'd go out of. I'd tried to persuade another girl I was friends with who was, you know, quite sort of wicked really, **(21.00)** and I thought ooh she might be up to this, but anyway she wasn't, she wasn't taking that kind of a chance. I don't think she believed me when I said I was going out on the town, but anyway off I went... um... It was pretty late by then, fairly early but certainly by the school standards... and I walked about enjoying the crowds and so on. And then at a certain stage, a a a youth who, er, I mean, oh yes, I rode around on an American army jeep along with a whole lot of other women who I, I was sophisticated enough to think, "Oh dear me, you know, I'm with a bunch of prostitutes so..." (laughs) I don't know that they were actually but they were all going to be having a good time of some sort with the Yanks, and um after I felt I'd ridden around long enough at the [...?] it left town a bit and sort of went out in the country and came back in again, anyway I dismounted and was sort of wandering around in the centre of Cheltenham. Unheard of! yeah I mean we weren't allowed to go out and do that kind of thing at all **(22.00)** um it was, you know, a very stuffy girls' boarding school, and a youngish fella sort of said hello. I think he was the other side of the road and came over and he seemed as though he wanted to be friendly and I thought, "Well that's rather nice, you know, I'll have an escort," so for the rest of the time I was out I had this male escort. He walked around with me, turned out he was about my own age, he was 15 or so and I was about 14. I remember we went back and visited his parents, I think he was rather proud to produce one of the girls of the college (laughs) that he was escorting around, um maybe he had girlfriend trouble. He had some sort of cast in his eye I remember, he you know, he wasn't a handsome young man at all, but you know he was very nice, and we had a good time and we, I think we both sort of, I don't know quite what he felt about it, but we saw couples, you know, sprawled

around canoodling doing goodness knows what in the parts and so on as we wandered about, and then sort of in the small hours of the morning um **(23.00)** you know he quite understandably, understandably escorted me back to my house, to St Austin's - I was in a house called St Austin's - and um, I had, he gave me a very sort of smacking kiss good night - not at all erotic but you know a smacking kiss, as obviously hadn't been into kissing girls I don't think, maybe because of, he wasn't very, a very beautiful young man, but er, we parted on you know the best of terms, and I went to my window that I'd left open to go back in. I don't think I changed any clothes before going back in, the ones I left out, you know, when I put on my silly clothes to go on the town, and I was just going through this window - it was a sash window I remember, open enough for me to get out, in and out of - and the voice of my houselady (we were too grand to have housemistresses), my houselady, Miss Garside if you please **(24.00),** said. "WHAT are you doing Pat?" - she really did. And I said, and I remember this absolutely, you know this is what I said, as placatingly as I could, I said, "Well I'm just coming in, Miss Garside." (laughs) I was whisked away incommunicado into the sort of sick bay of the house - I was, you know, too wicked really to mingle with the other girls in the house, I had to be kept as though I were ill with an infectious disease, apart from them. I can't remember how long I was kept in the sick day in St Austin's - not long, I think, because I was, before long, I was sent out to the school sanitorium, which I gather had been used for, for other bad girls in its time. It was actually a sanitorium where you went you were ill, I'd had tonsilitis there myself, but it was sort of on the edge of Cheltenham - so I was conveyed out there and that was as far as I knew to be where I would now remain (laughs) I'm not, I'm not really **(25.00)** in the running, you know, in the general run of things at the school at all. I wasn't allowed to go into college as we called it, into the classes or anything. What dad might have thought about this, cos he was quite an economical bloke, he would have been pretty pissed off I think, that he was paying fees for me just to sort of sit around in an sanitorium on the outskirts of Cheltenham. Anyway, it wasn't really very long before I was sort of summoned by the principal, Miss Popham, who, she was a woman who rather liked a challenge - she wasn't a great academic - but she, I think she took rather a liking to me partly because I was so wicked, um, and er she had this pet dog Peter, and when you went to see her about anything, which was seldom because she was this principal of this school of 800 girls, she wasn't like one of the housemistresses, she was the principal. I think it was mainly er a sort of um administrative job actually, and she wasn't doing any teaching, so, maybe smatterings of what was known as Divinity - Scripture at other schools - **(26.00)** Anyway, um, I went to see her, and there was Peter the dog, and she was sort of fondling him and so on, and nothing very dire seemed to be being suggested, but it appeared that I would stay in the sanitorium for a bit, so I went out and back to the sanitorium and stayed there for a bit and then I was told after I'd been there, I don't know how long, can't have been very long really but it seemed much longer than it really was I think, but um, that I could go back into college for classes. So I solemnly on my bike, which I'd gone to the station to get on V, on the VE day, um, I cycled into Cheltenham and went to classes in college because the sanitorium was on the edge of town, and er this state of affairs pertained for a while, for several weeks I think, up til about half term as it was called - half way, mid, you know, mid-way through the term - when I was told that um I would now, you know, be able to, **(27.00)** yeah I think it was a week or two before I was allowed to go into college at all, that's right, I, work was sent out to me to do in the sanitorium, the relevant book and so on, and then you know, big deal, I'd be allowed to go back into college, not into a house or anything, certainly not back to

St Austin's. I never went anywhere near St Austin's the rest of my time in Cheltenham - they didn't want to know anything about me, I, my behaviour was so shocking. I'd done of all the awful things, I'd let down the house! I mean, what could be worse really? I suppose letting down the school, the college as we called it. Anyway, um, by about half way through the term um I was informed that I would now be allowed to go to another boarding house, um, which was in fact a sort of new house, that is to say it had been an, in, it had been a house in er, a boarding house in Cheltenham, and then when the war started they had meant to be moved out, sort of evacuated to, er, to an outskirt **(28.00)** of Cheltenham. I don't quite know why this house and not any other. It was called Malvern Hill. So there I was in Malvern Hill and cycling into college for my, for classes and so on, but I was sort of a disgrace but this, I remember the, the houselady - she never called herself that - of this house was a down-to-earth, rather a friendly kind of nice woman, who I think, Miss Popham were quite, got along quite well with, they seemed to work well together, and she I think sort of accepted the fact that I was a bit of a challenge and, you know, was was sort of wicked and, you know, but not in a, not in a horrid way, and er there I was and I think I remained there, er in, yeah, I went to this house, this other boarding house and er there I was, for, not the whole of the rest of my time at Cheltenham, I was finally moved to the sort of, a boarding house for senior girls, and what **(29.00)** the school was too grand to call the Sixth Form. Upper College UE I remember it was called - Upper College University Entrance - and there I was. And eventually I moved out into um, to being what was a sort of a, into digs as we would call them now um, and as it happens - I don't know if the name Michael Tippett, the famous composer - have you heard of Michael Tippett? He was, you know, very much one of Britain's main composers actually, and concerts and so on, but his mother I think ran a kind of house where problem girls like I got sent - so I was sent and lived in Mrs Tippett's house for a while before finally [?] and the end of my school days (laughs). But I mean it was, it was all rather lively, I mean I, I think I was, they managed to make me sort of ashamed of what I'd done but, I think I, at rockbottom, I wasn't really. I mean I **(30.00)** knew that I'd manage to celebrate on VE day and nobody else in the school had (laughs). To my, to my, to this day I'm extremely pleased that I behaved exactly as I did when... but it wasn't a typical sort of Cheltenham Ladies' College pupil's career by any manner of means.

Interviewer: Sounds great (laughs).

PA: Well I suppose it sounds a bit sort of Enid Blyton in girls' school story-ish, but, um, those are, you know, that is factually what happened and...

Interviewer: Fantastic. Um, I wanted to ask you a bit more um, you said a little about how people felt when the bomb dropped. Do you remember any more about the day it happened?

PA: Well it was, it happened during what was, not in school, in the summer holidays we were away from Torquay, the family, the family at that time **(31.00),** because both my brothers were in the forces. Keith was out in India, the only of my brothers who's still around. The younger of the two was um, I think he'd just about joined up and was, you know, in where he went when you were sort of initially in the forces. So I was there, with, just with my parents, and we were staying in this vicarage that my father had sort of managed to do some kind of a swap with another clergyman so we got away down to the - well we lived in Torquay anyway - but we got away to another

place on the coast and so on for a bit of summer holiday, and we were there therefore when... on the day the atom dropped sort of ended the way. But I think I was very aware, as I think most people were, that this wasn't just a terrifying enormous bomb but it was going to spell the end of the war, and victory for us **(32.00),** the Allies, um so I'm sure I just, you know, shared the sort of relief that people felt generally about this, but I was also, I think from the beginning I was aware of the magnitude of this bomb, as everyone else was - I mean we were not fools, we didn't think it was another kind of high explosive bomb or in any way remotely like the incendiary bombs that we'd got accustomed to um, which didn't explode at all really but, you know, caused considerable amount of havoc through starting up fires in built up areas and so on. But I mean, nothing had ever in history as far as I knew when I was studying history as my subject when I was university, um, I knew nothing from the history I'd learnt of this sort of magnitude in relation to any of the wars that had featured in my syllabus.

Interviewer: Do you remember anything in particular that people said at the time?

PA: **(33.00)** No. I mean, everybody, I mean, I mean how could I? I mean it was in the papers - it was, from the beginning, clear that this was a bomb that was going to terminate the war because it was horrendous... I don't remember sort of, shock horror - I mean I don't remember people at that stage when it first dropped being anything other than extremely relieved that the war was over and it ended in victory for the Allies. I think I probably, I mean I would have shared in this, and I think this is probably, if one can generalise at all, how a high proportion of, of, people on the Allies' side would have felt. I have no idea how people in Germany and so on would have felt. I mean it wasn't until after the war was, you know, truly over that I went abroad in Europe and heard, you know, presumably got some impression about what other people **(34.00)** thought about these things and saw the devastation that had been sort of, from which the Britons and Americans had been responsible and, you know, what was left of Hamburg which was virtually nothing. But that was after the, shortly after the war was over, which coincided pretty much with the end of my school days um, yes because I left school in 1948 when I was 18, that was a year or two after the war had ended, um, not that long. I mean I remember bread was still rationed I think, and went on, some of the food rationing and so on went on after the war was over.

Interviewer: Do you remember anything about um people's attitudes to nuclear weapons in the years after the bomb dropped?

PA: Well yes, because I, I very soon got caught up in the movement. I mean, I was aware of what the atomic bomb could do, and I knew enough about - I didn't read the papers an awful lot - but I mean I picked up that you know both sides were getting, you know, an armoury of this kind of weapon and er, I became um, see I left school in 1948, um. There wasn't any anti- sort of - nuclear weapons movement at Cambridge when I went there I don't think. And after I'd finished at Cambridge when I was 18 I in fact left Britain and was at university in America for 2 years. I went, I got a scholarship - they collected foreigners - and they weren't discouraged by the fact that I got a bad degree from Cambridge, I don't think they even knew! It was enough for them that they could say, you know, proudly, "Ah, we've got a, you know, a graduate from Cambridge University," **(36.00)** and, the particular university I went to was one of numerous small state colleges in Ohio and it was called the University of Ohio rather grandly, and it was situated in a town called Athens - there being 17 Athens in

the United States altogether, the most famous of which I think was Athens, Georgia, which was also a university town. 17 - no doubt there still are 17, if not more than that by now, Athens in the United States. But you know now I'm sort of drifting ahead a bit, um, what was the question you asked me?

Interviewer: Um I was just interested to know if you remember how people felt about nuclear weapons in the years after the bomb dropped.

PA: Well, pretty worried I think, um, it wasn't much long after that I got, you know, into, and people like Walter Wolfgang who you met um got involved in setting up, **(37.00)** or if not setting up then joining, the sort of new movements that had evolved - anti-war movements, um. As I say, Walter, I know this is before I was involved but he was involved in the very early 50s and he's, you know, he's a fair bit older than I, Walter, so, I wouldn't have been involved in the early 50s because, the early 50s I was at college in the States in Athens, Ohio, where I was until I.. yes I was clearly, um, I can't quite remember why, but I very nearly got um deported from the States... um was it for some sort of political activity? **(37.45)**

[discussion of involvement in civil rights movement, relationships in the U.S., studying]

(41.26) *Interviewer: Yeah, just what people thought about nuclear weapons around that time...?*

PA: Yeah, I'm trying to remember really. I mean I had been involved over nuclear weapons before I left Britain, when I was at Cambridge and I was in the World Government Movement there, the purpose of which was to achieve a world um in which er there would be no Third World War, 'cos we were all aware a Third World War would involve, you know, probably complete nuclear annihilation **(42.00),** um, so I went to the States, you know, fresh from all this. But I didn't find, I mean, the college I went to was not political, I mean, when they, when they used the word political in relation to smaller state universities, they, they didn't mean sort of what we would mean in this country or would have meant at that time and would still mean - you know, party politics and taking a position on, on the issues of the day - it meant the politics of, you know, to do with nonsense, sort of internal kind of divisions in fraternities and which one you were in and so on and, particular college I went to didn't have any sororities I don't think but there were, a number of the blokes weren't in dormitories but were in fraternities, it was a sort of snob thing, but that was kind of what there was meant when you tended to use the term politics and could be confusing at times. There was me fresh from the World Government movement and keen to prevent World War Three **(43.00)** with nuclear weapons and here they were talking about stuff between fraternities and football games and so on.

Interviewer: Very different.

PA: Yes, I, when I'd finished at Ohio University, I can't quite remember all the stages in this but I'd got involved with the American Friends Service Committee... **(43.27)**

[Recollections on time at University of Ohio - including racism towards Nigerian friend, working and hitchhiking in America]

(48.17) *Interviewer: I'd like to ask you a little more about um, you said in Cambridge people were worried about a Third World War?*

PA: Well yes, it was at Cambridge that I became involved with the World Government movement, and the whole focus of the World Government movement, which had branches in a number of countries, um, which had conferences and so on, all of which was gonna, was gonna be familiar territory later on when I got into CND and that kind of thing but, um, I mean that was, the inception of that was, the danger of World War 3 breaking out and the use of nuclear weapons. I mean we all knew World War 3 **(49.00),** if it did break out, would involve nuclear annihilation, um, so we were, you know, people were very aware of this. Whether they were going to do anything about it or not or whether they sort of took, felt they were safe because of, as people do today, because of the detergent (laughs), the great nuclear deterrent, um, but I mean that was you know, the argument that was, you know, would get put to you in response to your saying "well we need to get rid of them", as it would today.

Interviewer: Yeah. So could you tell me how you, the very first involvement that you had with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament?

PA: Um, well, no, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament didn't exist when I was first involved, er, you mean with the first involvement over nuclear weapons?

Yes

PA: Well, in my student days at Cambridge **(50.00)** I think, I mean the World Government Movement, um, it really came into existence I think to a large extent because of concern about World War 3, which was very much on the cards in the Cold War era - I mean the great big bogey - I mean we didn't treat Russia as a great big bogey, we didn't have that kind of angle on it, it was that the bomb was the bogey, and, you know, we knew that nuclear war by accident was on the cards and er, as indeed it still is as far as I know, um. So I mean I grew up and left school under the shadow of the bomb if you like and, and with this degree of concern about it, um.

Interviewer: Do you remember any particular conversations about the Cold War with people?

PA: Put like that, no, not really, I mean I had so many - I mean, I was on the doorstep **(51.00)** canvassing in the towns which were, near where the bases were where the Americans or also the Brits were based, so I had quantities of conversations about it and it was usually, you know, trying to demolish this argument about we need it because we're not going to use it and because it's a detergent (laughs), I did say deterrent actually, occasionally it wandered into detergent. Um, I can't think of any one because it was, what I was just, what we were doing if you were in this movement, it was about going on the knocker, door to door, like campaigning at a general election, and I mean, I mean all the campaigning for peace and against nuclear weapons involved um getting on the knocker and complaining that none of the parties had a clear anti-war position. I was looking at some of the current documents - none of them have, that I've got from, locally, have got a reference to foreign policy at all, never mind nuclear weapons.

(52.00) *Interviewer: So when were you knocking door-to-door? Was that at Cambridge or later?*

PA: I was in my student days, which began... I left school at 18, and I don't remember whether I was still at school getting... well I mean, I was involved in the sense that I, as I explained, I wasn't going to let VE day go by without being, you know, involved in the rejoicings, um, but I mean I wasn't involved in campaigning or anything in school, um, very early on I was at Cambridge and I think it was, partly I was influenced by Guy Ellerington-Wilson. He was a man from Torquay, he was one of the ex-servicepeople, he was a contemporary of the younger of my two elder brothers and he was up at Caius when I was at Newnham, and I fell hook, line and sinker in love with Guy - seems extraordinary now as somebody who's been a lesbian for decades **(53.00)** but I really was bowled over by Guy. You know, he was my sort of idol, hero, um but I mean also um he was the main spring of the World Government Movement when I was at Cambridge and I'm not saying that I wouldn't have been involved whether or not Guy were there, and in fact Guy had left and gone away to take up a teaching post um, while I was still at Cambridge anyway but I remained active in the World Government Movement I think throughout my time at Cambridge as far as I can remember, um. I don't remember being involved in anything of that order when I went to Cambridge which I did fairly soon after, well I mean, I went straight from, from, from school to Cambridge with a vocation and all that in between but um...

Interviewer: How many of you were involved in the World Government Movement?

PA: Oh I don't know, we had people from various **(54.00)** colleges, um... The two people who seemed to be the mainspring of it were, there was Guy in Caius, and my brother and I, sort of, Peter got involved and I did. Keith, the brother who's alive still, had gone down, he's left, I never overlapped with Keith, but I overlapped with the younger of my two elder brothers - we did lots of things together and so on, in fact he got engaged to my best friend, um, but er he was very involved in the World Government Movement, um, influenced, I think we were both influenced by the enthusiasm of, of this bloke from Torquay, Guy Etherington-Wilson, who was about Peter's age, about the age of my brother, the younger of my two elder brothers, um... sorry I've lost track a bit - what was your question?

Interviewer: I just asked, how many people were involved?

PA: It's difficult to answer, I mean, I can't remember if there **(55.00)** already was some sort of incipient World Government Movement when i went up to Cambridge, but I think there were, there was a sort of branch of the passivist movement, possibly the Peace Pledge Union, which is in existence of course after the, after the end of the First World War, um... There may have, I think there was because we were slightly contemptuous of it actually, I can remember we, those of us who got involved in the World Government Movement felt that this sort of branch of the Peace Pledge Union was a bit flabby and it seemed to exist in name but not really ever to do anything much whereas we marched - I've got all sorts of photographs if you wanted to see them of, you know, being in - do you want to see any of them?

Interviewer: Yes - great.

PA: Snapshots... **(56.00)** [silence as gets out photos] **(56.13)** First time I went to prison was in '58 I think.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

PA: I've been in prison, of course they don't use the term 'political prisoner' - they wouldn't agree that you were a political prisoner even if you were, but I have been a political prisoner 11 times.

Interviewer: Amazing.

PA: Well not terribly long sentences most of them. Ah well there [looking at photo], case in point, there is this guy Wilson I'm talking about, that's my brother Peter, that's me and those are our World Government posters, and that's walking down King's Parade.

Interviewer: Yes.

PA: In Cambridge.

Interviewer: I recognise it.

Interviewer: What were your main aims as an organisation?

PA: Er to have a, well a government um, something that was an improvement on the rather feeble United Nations. Something with kind of **(57.00)** non-violent teeth in it which really would prevent a third World War, that would be you know democratically elected and so on. That was our MP - he was actually not a very left-wing Labour MP, but Henry Osbourne, I think he's dead now, but he was our sort of guru in a way. That's um with this guy Wilson, on the Strand, which is near the harbour in Torquay, walking along with 'World Government is essential' on the posters and we were advertising some meeting or something. Similarly that was in Cambridge, that's Peter and there's Guy again, um... I don't think I've got any others that were particularly relevant to what we're talking about. That was a sort of conference, international conference, that my brother and I went to, of people who were world federalists from various countries, um.

(58.00) [photos of older brother in Nigeria and discussion of her time visiting him]

[photos from time in America - friends at university, hitchhiking, working in Yellowstone park]

[photos from Torquay, social work in Liverpool]

PA: **(1.13.48)** Oh that's Hugh Brock, um, used to be the editor of Peace News, and that was, that was quite an interesting, that was a new press conference we had before the first Aldermaston march in '58, **(1.14.00)** and Hugh was um our chair, our direct action committee and er, there's Walter here somewhere, I think, I think that's Walter.

Interviewer: It looks like him.

PA: Yes, he was on the committee, and there was Alex Comfort, I think that was Alex Comfort.

Interviewer: Can you tell me what would happen at a kind press conference like this? So was this a press conference for the march itself?

PA: Yes it was about the march, yes, I mean it was quite a structured thing, we'd have in er I dunno, um, I think we probably got lent a room by Quakers in some suitable central London place, I seem to remember this being in Holborn, um, um and we would decide you know, the committee who was organising the march, the Direct Action Committee against Nuclear War, you know, we would, without really any sort of decision-making, hardly, sort of Hugh Brock who founded the committee and was the editor of Peace News **(1.15.00)** round about that time was just, sort of, gravitated into chairing the event, um. I don't remember sort of, I mean this is the press sitting around, there were quite a lot of them, there was quite a lot of coverage, I mean it was an unusual thing , you know, pilgrimage from London to Aldermaston, nothing like it had happened since the hunger marches and…

Interviewer: Well, Walter was telling me that you yourself had an instrumental role in, um, the organisation of it?

PA: Er yes I was the Field Secretary. I worked for sort of peanuts and I was one of the officers in a, sort of, organising capacity, um. We did, I mean it was, I think we and Richard, I say we, um, it arose on the initiative largely of Hugh Brock and a small group called Operation Ghandi, which included Michael Randle, who's still around up, in the movement up North actually, he lives in Bradford these days. It was when April Cater **(1.16.00)** came on stream, um, via a cousin of hers who was, er, involved with the sort of group that was a bit like the PPU I think, um. But, um, I mean, you know, Hugh knew all about press conferences and all, he edited Peace and he sent, we sent out notices and press notices to all the press and said what we were going to do and along they came and this was how we got our initial publicity. I think it was probably quite a bit because of this and the coverage of this, um, that um, that got us on the first march, um, 8000 people, um. And we had, we'd expected, there would be sort of about 50 people assembling in Trafalgar Square so we were sort of amazed at this large throng. [Sneezes] Excuse me. Um, it would, CND sort of evolved out of, other kinds of **(1.17.00)** peace, not the pacifist wing so much, more the sort of Labour left kind of wing, um. But there was quite a lot of merging and overlapping um. This'll, this will be the rally in, that kicked it all off, this is London to Aldermaston at the beginning of the march. I've got a lot of photographs that aren't stuck in this book actually.

Interviewer: These are great photos. I was trying to look online for some to, to kind of get an idea but these are much better than I found online.

PA: Well I've got better ones than these that aren't suck in this book, you know, big ones, I, er, I mean, if you like, it's no trouble to me whatsoever, I can dig them out. This is, um, marching away. We had a, the summer after the first march, that was the

summer of 1959, we had, er, a two month-long, um, vigil, we called it. It was, it was really a picket except we weren't blockading the entrances, outside in the forecourt of Aldermaston that strictly speaking, was out of bounds for, but the police didn't (1.18.00) choose to arrest us or anything. And there we are one dark rainy night all sitting, sitting it out, um. I think about thirteen, thirteen or so people took part in it but, um, and that had ended with a sort of grand, um, grand march away and as April and me I think, er, Michael Randle. Oh that was during picketing, there we are talking to a lorry, you know, trying to discourage him from taking his load in to whatever base it was, um, that we were focussed on at that time. Oh and they presented us all with sort of bouquets. There's April Carter and me walking away from Aldermaston with bouquets [laughs].

Interviewer: Who gave those to you?

PA: Um, the people in the movement, you know, the supporters, huh.

Interviewer: I'm actually going up next month to see Michael in Bradford.

PA: Oh are you? Give him my love.

Interviewer: I will do.

PA: Haven't seen him in quite a time. He'll be interested to hear that you've had a, seen all this. **(1.19.00)** This is one of our offices. It was in Seven Sisters Road, um. Rather dreary, we had an office upstairs in, in Finsbury Park area. This is picketing, um… You can see the badge is well and truly underway. You know, do you know about the badge?

Interviewer: A little but why don't you tell me?

PA: Well it was devised by Gerald Holtom, um, who was, er, a fabric designer or something and, er, he felt that we needed to have an emblem for this first march that was getting in to the news, this was all the way to Aldermaston march. And he suggested, er and he produced and er and I remember the people who were there, we were there from the Direct Action Committee, Hugh as Chair, myself as the Field Secretary. Don't think April was there and Michael may have been there…possibly Walter. Frank Alloun was an MP who was very sympathetic and acted with us at that time **(1.20.00).** But anyway, we decided that this, what this designer suggested, um, would suit us very well and I've got one of the original ones up there, can you see it? Get up and have a look 'cos the light's rather funny but it's, that is one of the first, very first, um, things, um… [looks at and describes badge]

(1.21.58) But, um, CND was stuffy about direct action. It was, it was, you know, um, Baron Collins and co were all rather grand and, and, and didn't really approve of these, er, these people and, er, it was quite a time before there was the kind of harmonious relationship and the two sort of merged. I found myself getting elected on to the Council of CND by people who thought I should be on it and, er, I, well you know there was a whole lot of stuff around all that [laughs] I could go on for hours if I could remember it.

Interviewer: So if CND were initially opposed to direct action, what did they want to do instead?

PA: Oh good question, I don't think they did much. I haven't, um, have rallies, you know, they did have rallies, and public meetings, um. I think really, er John Collins, who was sort of, quite a bit called the tune at that time, was worried about the law breaking. He wasn't so worried about poster parades where there wasn't any question **(1.23.00)** really of breaking the law. You told them, you told the police beforehand what you were going to do. If they said no you're not to do it then and you did go ahead and do it, then it became civil disobedience and you'd find yourself inside and so on. But I mean, um, John Collins wasn't for that. I don't think he wanted to go inside for one thing [laughs] It may have been partly that but, er, to be fair to him, I mean, I think he felt that this would be a bad image for the peace movement to have and he, you know, he had a reasonable argument for that I suppose, but people kind of disregarded it but there was a definite distinction, I mean, er, the committee of one hundred came into existence and it more or less sprang from the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War. It wasn't exactly the same, um, people around the peace movement and er who were not satisfied with the CND pussy-footing it along got into the committee of a hundred, which was very firmly committed to civil disobedience as such never mind if it was at the bases or not. And er, there were, oh, a very large number of people at the first Committee of one Hundred demonstration **(1.24.00)** having a sit down in, in Whitehall and so on and er, people got sent to prison for that and the distinction between the rather purist Ghandi and Direct Action Committee and the Committee of 100 was, at one time, it was quite a marked, sort of, division. I mean I think I was one of the people who in a sense bridged over this division, I became fairly early on a, a person, a sort of council member of the CND when I was actually a, the Field Secretary to the Direct Action Committee and, er, I suppose in way this was quite helpful. Um…

Well that might amuse you. That was looking for secret bases by plane. Here's a sympathetic farmer up in Yorkshire, who had this little aircraft and April and I went to stay with him and, and there was the aeroplane that he flew around trying to find secret bases from. Er, one did actually, this led to action at one of the bases, a place called **(1.25.00)** Fillingly [laughs]. And these are…marches…

Interviewer: Do you remember singing songs on these marches?

PA: Oh, yes, yes, yes.

Interviewer: What did you sing?

PA: Oh, the H bombs thunder [sings] 'Do you hear the H bombs thunder…' [laughs]

Um, some were standard songs that had been around since, you know, long before CND but um, ah yes, we got sort of song books and the person who was, sort key person over the, that musical side of stuff was a guy called John Briller, I remember. Um.

That's me holding forth in, I think it was in Market Square in Northampton. We had a campaign in Northampton 'cos they were building rocket bases in the vicinity and we

had what we called a **(1.26.00)** we had a project down there, but sort of like a peace camp and people stayed with sympathetic people living in the town there and also on some occasions we, we fell back on all having tents and, er, not part of the demonstration exactly but just as somewhere to live while we were there.

That's Michael Randle holding forth in.. Oh that's er, this is our site under construction. That was all happening and that was what we went to picket quite often. We, you know, we just walked about on this, on the site sometimes and they didn't quite know what to do about it. I mean, they were just sort of ordinary civilian builders on them and er [laughs] we weren't supposed to be on them and that was, there isn't a very clear time sequence in my photographs, some of these you know sort of jump back in time.

Interviewer: When you were doing these things like walking on the sites, did you meet people who, like the civilian builders, who were sympathetic to your cause?

PA: Oh yes, yes , I mean, we, I mean, we might have been assisted in getting on to these sites by sympathetic builders who were left wing trade unionists **(1.27.02)** and so on, oh yes, indeed. And dockers, there was George Green and um yeah. There's a base again… and this is… as you can see I've got quite a lot of ones with security fences and so on. Oh that was April up a tree trying to spy out a secret base somewhere [laughs].

Interviewer: What are the signs of a secret base? How would you know?

PA: Well, you, er, if it was something under construction, I mean, I'm talking about sort of like, really early days, there might be signs of building going, um, and the kind of fencing going up that we, you know, and there might have been something in the local paper, you know there were all kinds of ways in which you found out and local people who were sympathetic to the peace and so on and perhaps, er **(1.28.00)** who got involved in the newly formed CN, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament would let us know about, um, something going on. This, it's very difficult, I'm not giving you very clear answers, because there on the whole, aren't, um, any clear answers.

That's my brother's slave again I think, or one of them

Interviewer: So was there a small…

PA: Oh that's sitting at a, that's April Carter, Michael Randle and me. That was a summer-long picket we had outside the gates at Aldermaston in 19, er, 19… it was after the first Aldermaston march, in the summer, the march being at Easter and this is the following summer. The police all left us alone even though we were breaking the law being in the forecourt at Aldermaston at all.

Interviewer: I mean, what, what would you do as part of this picket?

PA: Sit and, and play games [laughs]. Read possibly, just, just sit, um, you know, it could get rather boring actually **(1.29.00)** and relatively uncomfortable, it would be a good idea to take an air cushion with you and, you know, you soon learnt the sorts of things that you might want to have on, for long pickets, um. But I mean there might,

there might be, er, stages, you know, some people would come and be replaced by others and this could involve a certain amount of office organising, not necessarily but it could do, I seem to remember 'cos I had this office job, um, you know, doing the things that you do do in offices, er, it's hard to remember clearly now but it did take a bit of work. That's my Dad, conjuring. As well as being a vicar he was an amateur conjurer. He used to demand a fee and then put it into church funds when he'd covered his costs. I think it's rather a nice picture of him, don't you? [laughs] Classic getting a rabbit out of a hat. I think that was a press picture that some, you know, got taken, yes, Magic Circle [reads] 'Rev G. G. Arrowsmith does his rabbit trick **(1.30.00)** and rabbit and hat trick' [laughs] He was looking rather solemn. Dad wasn't a political kind of person at all actually, I think he was kind of, a bit baffled by all this. My mother in a way was, er, having had her parents and sister, you know, martyred in China as missionaries kind of, you know, she got that kind of background, um. She was my nanny actually. And she became a matron of a local hospital in the end, after she left us. That is the swimming pool at Stover School, from which I was expelled in the fullness of time. I think that's me diving into the swimming pool. It was a sort of country mansion with a portico and so on.

And these are various sort of school, school groups, Cheltenham and Stover and so on.

So [laughs] **(1.31.00)**

Interviewer: Great. Can I look at the Aldermaston, the first few again?

PA: Yeah, um.

Interviewer: That we had in…

PA: Well I've got some better ones of Aldermaston, sort of, that aren't stuck in if you like to have a look at them, um?

Interviewer: That sounds great. Thank you.

PA: They're bigger altogether. Come down a minute and er, there, I've got them in a drawer in. Well stay here and I'll bring them up.

Interviewer: You sure?

PA: Yeah.

Interviewer: Thank you.

PA: These are a set to look at because they're, they're, you know, great big photographs.

[retrieves photographs followed by discussion with Ruth regarding documenting the photographs]

PA: **(1.32.00)** That was a leaflet, a seditious leaflet. One of us got lo-, sentences for handing this out to troops. We had two versions of this I think. One more seditious than the other and I think that's what I got one of my longest sentences for was for handing out, um, seditious literature.

Interviewer: When were you handing this out?

PA: Um, can't remember when this is. Not in the early days of CND at all, um, it was, I think it was in relation to actually in the Vietnam war. Yes, there was quite an overlap, you'd see a lot of the same people and the same tactics were used in the campaign against the war in Vietnam that had been, and still were being used, in the campaign against the bomb. It is amazing how one begins to forget [laughs], it's quite good to have these, to have a refresher course in it. Here's a, that's a famous American **(1.33.00)** peace activist, Bayard Rustin. That's him at a rally in Trafalgar Square. I think I've, yes, you see it was, er, it was used in the press.

Interviewer: Are you in this photo?

PA: Dunno. Don't know that I am. Probably not. I was very much in an organising role which meant a sort of, not necessarily being up front in the things, um.

Interviewer: Do you remember the atmosphere of that day? What was it like?

PA: [whispers] You can see what it was like. I don't think it was, there was any violence. Occasionally there would, we'd get the breakaway group that might get caught up in some act of civil disobedience. Here's a march from London, that's another one of the march, um.

Interviewer: Everyone looks quite serious in the photos. Was that the atmosphere?

PA: Can't generalise, I mean, **(1.34.00)** can you when there were thousands of people. This was, um, a vigil somewhere or anther where we had a declaration. That's me and, and, we, we and I don't remember the details there were so many different actions and times and places that…If we could just keep all these ones together and I'll…I don't know whether this is after I'd been on a hunger strike or why or quite why there's a pic- close up picture of me eating. I got forcibly fed in prison, um, one of my prison sentences.

Interviewer: It says, after two months in prison in 1961.

PA: Aha, well that's what it is then [laughs]. Here's another one of me, um.

Interviewer: Just keep these in order.

PA: The docks, Merseyside. Oh yes, I, we campaigned up on, I say we in a very general sense, er, Merseyside **(1.35.00)** docks to try and get trade union action in the peace campaign.

Interviewer: Do you remember any, who these people are in the photo?

PA: Well I think it says doesn't it, the docks, um well that would have been Merseyside dockers I think. [reads] 'Pat CND Merseyside industrial organiser'. No, I, I er, don't know whether this was one actually taken at the docks, I can't really tell here but I mean it probably is, I should think, very likely. These are dockers, um, not actually at work. They've got um… Cardiff on general elections, speaking as candidate in the precinct although I'm speaking as a cand- candidate. I was fielded in one or two general elections on, by sort of ad hoc groups, um. CND never wanted to, CND as such didn't field **(1.36.00)** field candidates but sort of ad hoc groups were set up with this. Here's one, [reads] 'Pat Arrowsmith speaks out at an ANL, Anti-Nazi League protest, against a National Front meeting in Dinas Powys near Cardiff'. So these aren't all, sort of, nuclear disarmament pictures but they're all anti-war in some sense.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

PA: This is a rather nice one. It's coming out of prison on some occasion greeted with, you know, flowers and things.

Interviewer: That's lovely.

PA: That's being dealt with by the police… These ones seem to be all rather, rather more personal to me. Perhaps they're not all **(1.37.00)**. Um, this is coming out of Greenham prison after a sentence there, er, must have been a sentence where I got forcibly fed, um. I went on hunger strike, er, for a couple of weeks I think, er, because they wouldn't consult the prisoners about what work they should do. They were just told what they should do. And I said I wasn't going to eat anything until they did consult them and I didn't and they did. I only took water but I, I wasn't on thirst strike but I, I think for about two weeks I didn't eat anything.

Interviewer: Wow.

PA: Perhaps, I don't- coming out of prison. This is, er, April's writing in 19- [reads] 'Pat coming out of prison in 1969 after 6 month sentence for Elliott Automation protest'. Elliott Automation was a big arms firm.

Interviewer: Why were you imprisoned at that protest?

PA: Well I was one of the organisers **(1.38.00),** as well as taking part in it, um. I can't, you know, they, I, I got sort of quite long sentences for refusing on principle to be bound over to keep the peace. I wouldn't sign binding over orders and got six months twice with no remissionary sentence because I was a civil prisoner or so called, so I, I, if you're a civil prisoner you don't get any remission. So twice I, I did a straight six month sentence straight up without…

Interviewer: What does that mean, a binding over order?

PA: It means giving an undertaking not to repeat the offence. Well if you have every intention of repeating it and, you know, er then you won't perhaps agree to sign the statement to say you won't do it again, as a concession to the authorities. Well, I wasn't going to say I was never going to do it again when I knew perfectly well that I

was going to [laughs]. Um, it was a matter of principle. Here's a march. I think that's at Swaffham, must have been one of the earlier demonstrations against the missile base **(1.39.00)** construction.

Interviewer: So who would have made the banners that you held during these?

PA: Oh supporters of the committee and whoever does make banners [mumbles]. Here's one with a well-known VIP on it. There's Doctor Donald Soper sitting down at Aldermaston. Don't know whether, you know, you're too young for that to resound as an important name but, er, but does it mean anything to you, Donald Soper?

Interviewer: 'Fraid not.

PA: Certainly did, you know, he was quite a, a well-known name, er in... He was a well-known, er Methodist preacher, um, and it was quite a, you know, it was very helpful to have him on our demonstrations. He wasn't actually on the committee. There's another one with him and, sitting in front and, whoever. These I think are a lot of them are press pictures that we managed to get later **(1.40.00).** That's one with April, Michael Randle and me on the defence at Aldermaston.

Interviewer: How often did you have people who were motivated by their religious beliefs?

PA: Oh goodness me, I don't know. Oh you mean in prominent positions? Well Michael Scott, it's arguable, the Reverend Michael Scott, he was a very humanist type of clergy person but he was strictly speaking a, an, an ordained person and Donald Soper, um, I can't offhand think, I mean CND is distinct from the direct action wing of the movement and probably did have quite a lot of people. I mean, I can't just remember offhand I'm afraid. That's coming out of prison on some occasion, that's the same.

(1.41.18) *Interviewer: Yeah it says [reads] 'After refusing to enter into a re-*

PA: A recognizance

Interviewer: '-recognizance to be of good behaviour for two years' [laughs].

PA: Yes, I mean, I, that's what they used to get me on quite a bit, um. Here's.. Oh we, we had a delegation go to Germany for a German peace march, West Germany.

Interviewer: So would a large group of you have travelled over for the march?
(1.42.00)

PA: Certainly a group of us did yes, er, I can't remember if it was very large or not but, um, it, it wasn't quite a, wasn't just one or two individuals. That was, you know, relatively speaking, not so long ago. There's a lot of these go way, way back. Um [mumbles]. Here's Roger Moody, who used to be very active, um, was General Secretary of this and that other thing in the peace movement.

Interviewer: Can we ask you a few questions about the finer details of the Aldermaston marches?

PA: Yeah, I, I mean, if I can remember them. Do, do you want to see any more of these?

Interviewer: Um, maybe if we pause for the moment and we focus on this and then we'll keep going though if that's ok? **(1.43.00)**

PA: There are some that could be a bit, you know, confusing 'cos some of them are, are anti- Vietnam war demonstrations and it's a sort of, kind of, in my thinking, blends in really with CND. It was so like in the Vietnam war or so it seemed at one stage that um, it would go to world war three and um, a lot of the same people were involved and the same kind of feelings evoked, um. Go ahead, I mean, ask me what you like and um, I may or may not be able to answer. I don't mean I'll [?], I mean there's nothing I want to keep secret particularly, it's just one's memory has got its limitations.

Interviewer: What was the first stage of the planning process?

PA: Er, well for what? I mean, can you be more specific?

Interviewer: Yeah, I mean, I guess for the first march that you did, can you remember?

PA: Yes, um, there had been, before I, I was involved, the very early fifties **(1.44.00)**, not very long after the end of the end of the second world war and I think Walter may have been involved in this, Walter Wolfgang. Two or three people who were concerned about what was going on at Aldermaston. Hugh Brock, who was editor of Peace News and a sort of journalist, um, was suspicious I think, that, er, there was something going on that the authorities didn't really want us to know about. Well that was the starting point with Aldermaston, not the whole movement, um, but in a way Aldermaston came to almost symbolise the nuclear disarmament movement in many ways, um. And um, oh well I suppose he got together with two or three people he knew already from, you know, being peace activists, cos there were people as I say who were sort of getting together really ever since world war two was over actually, um, people who were dissatisfied with the UN and so on and not confident that a third world war wasn't going to break out but, between East and West. Um, so I suppose **(1.45.00)** he got together with a few people, I mean, I, I maybe my own experience is slightly a case in point. I was, um, at a certain time I was doing a job as a cinema usher and writing one of my various novels and on my days off I might go into the public library and, er, to get on with it. Anyway I was in the public library, I think, and I read in the reading room about, um, er, some plans, I think, I think I read in the paper that there were sort of people who were concerning themselves about nuclear armaments um. When I very first became worried about nuclear weapons I, I'm not sure, sort of, I've already told you, I mean I was perfectly aware, as we all were, that the atom bomb that had ended the war was a horrendous kind of weapon and, um and there was the danger always that it could be used again and indeed they, there nearly were breakdowns **(1.46.00)** in the [?] kind of situation in the post-war period, um. But anyway, I was in the library and I saw something in a paper, um, and um, whether

there was a name I could write to, but I wrote off and I think I wrote a letter saying I was interested in this to, either to Hugh Brock, who's name I had by then got, knew about, or perhaps it was maybe, I from the press I got the name of someone to write to but, I know, um, oh yes, the, er, I sort of forgot all about him, the guy who, shortly after the war, um sailed when the tests were first um, known that there were going to be hydrogen bomb tests, Christmas Island. Harold Steel, a Quaker, or virtually a Quaker, was a man who **(1.47.00)** decided he was going to go out there and make a protest within the radius of the, of the test area. That's right, yes and I read about this in the library and I thought, oh, this sounds, you know, a good thing, perhaps I should write to him and get involved and, offer to go as well. So I did and I had an extraordinary meeting with Harold Steel one day um. He came up to Chester I think, which is where I was at that time and er, whether he'd come for any other reason or whether it was just in response to my writing I'm not sure but um we had a gloomy conversation about what it might feel like to get irradiated to death [laughs]. But I mean that was a very real possibility that, you know, if we were going to sail into the test area where the hydrogen bomb was being tested um in those days there was sort of less precautions about fall out and so on from tests as you may or may not know um and um I don't remember anything being sort of finalised out of this meeting with him but um **(1.48.00)** Harold Steel kind of, er, this guy had a rather kind of prophetic sort of, he looked kind of like an old testament prophet he was not a young man at all you know, he, he, there was something rather prophetic about him, um. I can't remember whether he had children, he certainly had a wife that was, I've forgotten her first name but she was in evidence. But um, he sort of had been quite a bit in touch with Hugh Brock as the editor of Peace News and getting publicity over going and sailing into the test area. Well this never happened, he got as far as Japan and something, you know, practical obstacles rose up there. The Japanese he thought were going to with him and support this and take part perhaps, fell by the way and it didn't happen and he came back to this country and, I think, you know, disappointed and, you know, in a way, er, available to, for something new and that was in a way how the Direct Action Committee got off the ground. Here was Harold Steel back and **(1.49.00)** he hadn't managed to sail into the test area and perhaps we should try something else and so the idea which came from Hugh Brock, who had been involved by then in one or two very small endeavours at Aldermaston itself, 'cos by then he'd managed to find out that there was you know this semi-secret dreadful kind of work going on there and it was still being built I think, er the plant. And then this led on to getting more people together. We had, er, a meeting in er, er, where people who'd shown an interest in this and somehow Hugh and, and, and Harold Steel knew and had contact with, which included me and April Carter and Michael Randle and one or two other people and out of all this the Direct Action Committee against nuclear war was formed, which didn't have a definite plan of action but was there and then that following summer um, well no, it was, that that actually organised the first march not CND at all, which was rather disapproving **(1.50.00)** and thought this was something that might be counter-productive and er, goodness knows what all. I mean John, John Collins was a, you know, was very sort of conservative with a small c, um, um… But anyway, so, the, this small committee which evolved over concern over what was going on at Aldermaston and was really the brain child of the then editor of Peace News, Hugh Brock, who later became Chair of this newly-formed Direct Action Committee um. That was sort of how that side of the movement got underway. The more constitutional campaign for nuclear disarmament um, I can't quite remember how, what sparked that off or whether it was just general concern about the situation

at the end of World War Two and the failure of the UN really to present itself or manage to present itself as a, as a [?] for maintaining peace, ah that I don't offhand kind of remember, though of course I may do after you've gone **(1.51.00)** um [laughs]. Dunno, does this answer some of what you were asking?

Interviewer: Yeah, no that's really helpful um, so the Direct Action Committee started planning for the Aldermaston march?

PA: Yeah, the Direct Action Committee against nuclear war, yes.

Interviewer: What, um, what went into those plans?

PA: Well we drew in other people and so we had to call ourselves the Aldermaston March Committee because we were more than the Direct, some people on the Direct Action Committee original were a bit stuffy about doing something that they thought might get us into trouble, get us the wrong sort of publicity. They thought that it might be counter-productive. I'm sure they were quite sincere and genuine and not cowards but it seems very strange looking back now. But er, so we had to find a, a new name for it and, er, um and it ceased being just people who'd been supporting the peace union and became the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War and then, because a lot of people took part, who were the sort of prime, primarily **(1.52.00)** had involved themselves in the newly-formed CND they were all sort of just people in general who were concerned about developments occurring in the world um. And we had an Aldermaston March Committee which was specific to this one project and after that we had certain, more than once I think we had an ad hoc committee for a particular event, which was spawned in the first instance in, by the Direct Action Committee. Well there was a lot of interplay of members between CND and the Direct Action Committee but I mean, er John Collins was really rather you know, a bit of a pain and you know … CND had a, a General Secretary called Peggy Duff, who was, in a way was very much a small c conservative, I mean she was very Labour party actually. She kind of emerged out of the Labour party and became for years, several years the paid General Secretary of CND **(1.53.00)**. Rather as I in the fullness of time became the paid factotum for the direct action side of things um. It gets um, as these things do, fairly complicated, hard to explain um.

Interviewer: So what was your role at that very early stage?

PA: Well, which stage um?

Interviewer: So when you first started planning the march.

PA: Are you asking me sort of personally what got me involved?

Interviewer: Mmm, yeah.

PA: Well what personally got me involved was World War Two I suppose. I didn't want there to be a third world war and I knew that if there were a third world war to, were to break out, which seemed all too likely in that Cold War period that um nuclear weapons were almost certain to get used and we must do something to stop it. And so I involved myself with you know the small committees that were coming into

existence and so on and I was available um. Of course I got sacked from a **(1.54.00)** job so I was very, I er, I was sacked, what was it for? I think it was for some political reason actually um. I can't remember what it was now. Gosh, surely I've forgotten. I've written articles myself which were published at the time probably you know it's better than some of those things that are sitting here now, you know I, I find I can't quite remember um. But there was a kind of an upsurge of people, not surprisingly I mean an atom bomb was an incredible new departure and you know, it had, had in a, like it or not, terminated the second world war um, er. So it's not surprisingly that, you know, there were a lot of people thinking war and peace kind of concerns.

Interviewer: So on the day of the march, the first march…

PA: Yeah.

Interviewer: Um could you just tell me your memories of that, how did the day begin? **(1.55.00)**

PA: Well I, I didn't go on it the whole way at all, I was the organiser you see and rather regretfully actually I preferred to have been marching more than I really was having to do sort of back-roomy things and things to do with the press I mean we'd had to do some work in an office beforehand and I'd had a lot of practice in, in talking to the press about this forthcoming event and when, when we were actually there on the road I had to sort of see that the, we made various rules for the march, you know you can imagine marchers are not very keen on rules, and we, we were having to try and sort of see that the stewards that we'd managed to appoint by then to be on it, that they kind of saw that this was upheld and that it didn't get all very unruly and possibly violent or anything, um. And in a way I, my role was in a certain sense to do with this, I don't mean anyone specified that it was, it's just I knew it was, I was a paid person in the office that was **(1.56.00)** that had become the organising sort of body for it um.

Interviewer: What were the rules of the march?

PA: Well, I mean, you know, not use any violence at all, I mean it was not a, a violent demonstration. I don't think we had any rules one way or the other with that first march about whether you should break the law or not, um. That tended to come later when we had demonstrations where there were, some of the people were doing, by general agreement, things that didn't break the law and other people were breaking the law, er but we hadn't reached that sort of stage with the first big Aldermaston march so it hadn't, I mean there had been a couple of very small ones, I wasn't involved in those at all, there were before my time, and I, might have been at the time when I was living in America anyway. But they, they'd involved Hugh Brock, who I think had been the sort of guiding sort of, sort of, sparked them off **(1.57.00)** um and, oh yeah, he was in a strong position cos he was the editor of the Peace News which I'd, you know, among peace people had a quite a wide circulation, was quite widely read and um, in so far as the peace movement had a journal I suppose it was Peace News um. I, I think I was, you know, personally if you're asking me, I mean I was very affected by World War Two even though I was never in an area that was getting blitzed and so on, it made a deep impression on me um. I mean I was lucky depending on how you look at it, I mean had a brother who could well have got killed in Burma

if he hadn't got peritonitis um. Another one who was just not quite old enough to get drafted away and er, war was practically over when brother Peter was called up um. But I, I, whether it was anything to do with my religious background I **(1.58.00)** don't see why it would be actually because I wasn't religious by the time I was getting involved with CND I'd, I had a sort of religion, I'd really stopped being , in a real sense, religious when I was about 12 I think and wasn't at all sure about believing in God and Jesus and, well I mean I knew that Jesus was a person who got crucified and so on and um and probably had managed to achieve extraordinary, miraculous cures and but it wasn't really a belief in a sense that, you know, that the angelic Christians mean by the, by it. It must have been very tough on my parents actually, particularly my mother that, rather confusing for her. Here I was, you know, risking getting killed and so on in these demonstrations and getting death threats, which I did now and again and yet, you know, this is like the Christian martyrs and I wasn't a Christian. She must have found this quite bothersome I think. I can't remember really discussing it much with her **(1.59.00).** I probably must have done from time to time because it was, the main time were having profound conversations was when we were washing up the lunch [laughs].

Interviewer: When did you get death threats?

PA: Sorry?

Interviewer: When did you get death threats? You said you received death threats.

PA: Occasionally in the post I did, I mean it would have been when I was, when there was publicity that related to me personally as the, sort of, the young woman who was the organiser, that's how the people would have, would have known, um, it's a long, long time ago, I haven't had death threats in ages but I know that once or twice I did from unknown people anonymously um. I wasn't particularly bothered actually, I mean well if you're taking part in actions which could be lethal anyway like sitting in front of lorries and things which may or may not decide to stop, you know, didn't always, People did I think once or twice actually get quite badly injured. I never did but I mean I **(2.00.00)** I'd been sitting right in front of something that was advancing on me [laughs] it's rather worrying and also on a train, trains too, we had action in relation to nuclear trains as we called them. I sat on a railway line where there were trains coming along, it was [laughs] loaded up with nuclear stuff.

Interviewer: Yeah. When you, um, organised demonstrations, how did you let people know when and where to meet?

PA: Oh well we managed to raise enough money to have a little office and to get on the phone and so on um. I, I'm trying to remember whether we began, I mean, I think you know some people would perhaps make their, their home available, they would have enough space perhaps, I can't remember specifically ever working from a person's home, you know, um. I mean there was enough concern that it wasn't all that difficult to raise some money to rent a cheap little office. (2.01.00) We had one at Finsbury Park for a long time so, you know, I went to work in this office and, you know, answered the mail and, or didn't or palmed it out or whatever, answered the queries about the arrangements for the march if by then we'd got them, I'm thinking to way, way back when I worked full time for the committee um. [laughs] I mean, for

some of your more specific questions it's hard to remember really what um [refers to more photographs].

Interviewer: Was it a full-time job for you at that stage?

PA: Oh yes, I mean it has been on and off my full-time job, yeah.

Interviewer: Were there many women in the movement at that stage?

PA: Yeah, yeah, well Peggy Duff was a full-time worker in the CND office um…**(2.02.00)**

[looking for more relevant photographs]

PA: That's um, that's Wendy, who I, my lesbian partner, we lived together for many years. She was on the, I got to know her through the movement, she was, lived up in Peterborough I remember Mike and I went up to Peterborough to meet the local CND group that had just got going there and that was when I encountered Wendy and she was available to work sort of full-time for the, for the, for the movement.

Interviewer: I like your CND badge.

Interviewer: Where? Yes, maybe why I've still got one of them [laughs] **(2.03.00).** That's um, held up at gunpoint at a place where we demonstrated.

Interviewer: Says 'at a US base in Thailand during the Vietnam war'. Wow.

PA: Well as I say these photographs cover [mumbles]

Interviewer: Are there any points when you felt um, in real danger? I mean, you're talking about the railway tracks and the gunpoint.

PA: Well yes, I mean, if you're sitting in front of lorries that may not stop, you, you're aware that you're in, in danger, um. I don't, sort of, I don't actually remember ever sort of running away I mean I got heaved around by the police a lot and dumped in a ditch or something **(2.04.00)** as, as a lot of us, I don't think just me, but this is how they handled it quite a bit. Um. Well you see I mean I came into this as someone who volunteered to sail into the test area at Christmas Island and that was back in my student days when I first encountered this in the paper, there was this man Harold Steel who was proposing doing this so I had to think about whether I was prepared to run the risk of getting irradiated at er that sort of age. I suppose most of my life it hasn't been that remote a possibility. It doesn't seem a particularly great possibility these days [laughing]. But er, from an early stage I, I, in a way have had to confront this in relation to the things that that I've been doing as, you know, along with a lot of other people, I don't mean that I was anything more sort of special **(2.05.00)** than other people over this. I was available to work full-time which a lot of other people wouldn't be, wouldn't have been um. Think a lot of these duplicate what I already showed you. Here's, this is when there was, we had a march for people in prison and so we gave [mumbles].

Interviewer: Was it quite a lot of young people?

PA: Yes, yes, um, I, I don't think that you could generalise and say that it was more young than old um, you know when you've got thousands of people on a march it's very hard to tell,

Interviewer: Mmm,

PA: You know and middle aged. I mean I suppose I never, you know, I began being involved in this when I was arguably young, arguably young but young middle-aged. Here's some rather graphic ones…

(2.06.00) *Interviewer: What's going on in this photo?*

PA: Well we're having a demonstration at one of the bases and we're getting um, you know, showered, sprayed by the police. Could have been, this is the, the sit-downers. This was the sit down at the North Pickenham base, what was Swaffham base as it was usually called. I mean this came to look as thought it was the actual weapon, it isn't of course, it's the, you know, part of the building, materials and scaffolding and so on. Oh here might be one or two faces that you, you know um. Bruce Kent there. He wasn't involved in the very early days, Bruce Kent. He came on stream **(2.07.00)** quite a while later on. This is a rather jolly one. I don't know what I'm doing or why. There's a message, someone's written on the back what it all was.

Interviewer: Shall I see. 'Pat on local CND protest against civil defence, early 1980s'. Ha ha, that's a great look.

PA: That's a, a rather splendid press picture.

Interviewer: I'm actually seeing Bruce tomorrow.

PA: Oh are you? **(2.08.00)**

Interviewer: Yeah [both laugh].

PA: Will you tell him you've been here to see all this?

Interviewer: Yes I will, I will.

PA: Rouges gallery of stuff. Oh look, here's Peggy Duff. The first general secretary of CND. It mustn't have been, you know, much later on in her career because she got disabled there and… I think she must be long dead by now I think, I don't remember any particular, any funeral for her or do I. Some old duffers... Well this was in the Vietnam war, we had some people go to the Far East and Hong Kong and so on as well as **(2.09.00)** Vietnam. I can't quite think why we went to Hong Kong but we did. I say we, it was quite collectively, I didn't um. That is the kind of typical meeting room when we were having a sort of peace camp in Vietnam, ha, hot day and people getting drowsy [laughs].

Interviewer: Looks quite nice.

PA: Yeah.

Interviewer: When you went, when you initially started going along to these meetings, would you bring friends, like-minded friends with you or would you meet people there?

PA: When what, um?

Interviewer: When you first started, um, getting involved with the Direct Action, um Committee would you, did you go along by yourself?

PA: Yes, I think so, um, but the person who convened those early meetings really was, was primarily Hugh because he was the editor of Peace News and in the early days, you know, there were people on the Peace News staff who were quite a bit involved, I mean Michael Randle was at that time **(2.10.00)** and April was, had a close sort of friendship with Hugh and his wife and, that's a rather funny one [laughs]. I mean those, they, no rhyme or reason chronologically to, to these now.

Interviewer: It says, here you are. This one's in Torquay.

PA: Yeah. Oh yeah I did speak at an event in Torquay, which was my family home town. It was rather strange um. Yes, I [laughs] in a café there, yes I I remember the occasion. Now I'm looking proper in a dress [laughs].

Interviewer: Did people you know from Torquay come?

PA: Well there was a sort of Torquay CND group who um, I don't know that anyone that I kind of, who's been, so long after I'd been grown up and grown away you know, I'd been at boarding school and university and living in the **(2.11.00)** States and I didn't really have any personal friends much in Torquay by then um. Here we are with royalty.

Interviewer: Great.

PA: Prince Sihanouk

Interviewer: So would the meetings to organise demonstrations happen in different places?

PA: Say that again, because I…

Interviewer: When you met to organise demonstrations or marches would you always meet in the same place or did you have different..?

PA: Well if we were planning and, I mean, by the, the we as I'm thinking of is the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War or the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament or sometimes a blending or partial blending of the two and there would be a definite of, you know, fixed **(2.12.00)** up with phone calls and paperwork and er, a room booked probably you know booked, some sort of vaguely public room an er,

arrangements would be made, um. Um, Dunnno,does,does that give you the answer yeah?

Interviewer: Mmm.

PA: I mean the, the local CND branches I don't know whether this is still the case or not, meet in people's homes, you know, the local groups. I mean, given that the, the organisations I've been talking about now are not local groups so they might have met sometimes in people's houses, um. I can't really remember, I don't remember ever having that kind of meeting here but I mean this was all long before I was living here anyway, what I'm sort of showing you now.

Interviewer: You were saying that you took a sort of back, backstage role with the Aldermaston march, the original one…

PA: Yeah

Interviewer: Did you join them in the evenings when they were camping over or staying in halls or something? **(2.13.00)**

PA: Um, I don't think I did as a rule no, I think I, I commuted back here um. I certainly yeah, a lot of our projects I was camping out overnight and so on and indeed quite recently I went on an Aldermaston demonstration I was there overnight, but um I think I came back here, I can't remember why, whether there were practical things I needed to do back in the office or something, um. I don't really remember camping over, it was horrible weather but I don't know whether that had any bearing on it as far as I was concerned. We were very unlucky with some of the weather on that first march. Second day I think it poured with rain, the time it was, the final day was, luckily was very nice, when we had, er, a rally outside the base, the plant and field opposite that friendly farmers had let us use. That is er, er a casualty of the war **(2.14.00).**

Interviewer: Yeah, it's awful.

PA: You didn't know Peggy Smith did you? She, she was a really a veteran peace campaigner that old lady. She would have, like Walter Wolfgang, got involved in, via the Quakers I think, in peace activity, um. Some way before I did. But I mean she must have died a long time ago I think. But you know when she was quite an old lady she was taking part in, in things that involved, you know, sit downs and getting arrested and carted about and… Oh here's Harold Steel who proposed sailing **(2.15.00)** to Christmas Island and um Donald Soper. Harold Steel and Frank Allaun MP, that's Frank the MP who was very helpful to the nuclear disarmament movement um [repeats herself].

Interviewer: Mmm.

PA: That was, well that was a press picture. Oh here's some sort of celebrities yes. Arnold, Arnold Wesker and er, and George Melley I think on a demonstration.

Interviewer: So it says on this one, um, 'handing to the Prime Minister a book of signatures and resolutions'. So would someone have gathered those altogether and..?

PA: I suppose so I mean, you know, CND had **(2.16.00)** an office and the Direct Action Committee did or for nuclear armament did so some of that sort of work would have been done, you know, in one or other of the offices I think. Here we have Arnold Wesker on a, 'carries declaration to the Treasury'. I've a vague idea that's George Melly beside him but I…

Interviewer: Before I forget to ask you Pat, when you were talking about um your VE Day adventure, do you remember anything from VJ Day?

PA: Um, nothing much because it was during summer holidays and um Dad drove Mum and me and whoever else was, um, there in Torquay our home town in the summer, down, down to Plymouth, where there was quite a demonstration and people you know, cheering because the war was over, Japan, um. **(2.17.00)** We went down sort of that evening and stayed til quite late and then drove back to Torquay again and so there was nothing sort of particularly newsworthy about our activity, not like when I went out on my own in Cheltenham on the VE Day and got picked up by this young man and walked around town and so on [laughs].

Interviewer: But the general atmosphere was a similar one of celebration and jubilation?

PA: Oh yes, yes, yes, yes. What we, here we are with ladders. That's Ruislip, oh yes, that was one of the main bases. When I say bases I don't necessarily mean sort of nuclear warhead missile bases. Oh here's somebody I think you know.

Interviewer: Why would they have had the ladders in this picture?

PA: Well we would have taken ladders to er scale the fences I suppose, um, maybe, you know, a bit symbolically 'cos we were probably half aware that they'd be taken away before **(2.18.00)** we managed to do that but that's why we had ladders. There's somebody there that you ought to be able to recognise. Can you?

Interviewer: Is it Kate? Oh there you are. Who's this on the left?

PA: That is Kate.

Interviewer: It is Kate, yes.

[interrupted by phone ringing and discussion of which photographs have been looked at]

PA: Oh this is, er, these are not so much CND as trips out in Ireland, a movement **(2.19.00)** I was, er extremely involved in and did time over.

Interviewer: Is that the same necklace you're wearing now?

PA: Probably not actually, I've got various ones like that. I've got one which I gave away to Kate actually, um. I'd got a metal thing a bit bigger than this, I'd stuck little bits of broken red glass all the war around it, sort of a socialist kind of peace symbol but, er, I gave it to her, I can't quite think why [laughs]. In some ways I wish I hadn't but there you are. Oh this is rather an interesting one. This is um, in our campaign against the war in Vietnam and the bombing and so on, we found ourselves up at the borders of, er, of um, South, we went to Cambodia **(2.20.00)** but I mean that's a sort of press picture I think or perhaps it wasn't but it's obviously a photocopy but, that is actually at the frontiers of, what was then South Vietnam I suppose um, God I'm getting muddled. Yes these are ones of sort of Ireland, trips out of Ireland.

[Flicking through photographs with no really relevant comments]

(02.21.46) *Interviewer: Do any particular anti-nuclear demonstrations stand out in your memory?*

PA: No, not really, I mean there could be so many of them, I mean the first Aldermaston march of course was unique because I was the organiser but then I wasn't on it for a lot of it because, because I was organising. It's difficult when you've been on so many over the many years, um, to sort of.

Interviewer: I mean any particular anecdotes, um, did anything funny ever happen on..?

PA: I'm sure it did. I'll sort of think of all of this after you've gone probably, that's the trouble. Now what's this.? [reads] 'PA arrested in Cardiff when speaking as a Socialist Unity candidate in 1979 general election against John, against Callaghan' there's Callaghan standing there.

Interviewer: When you were camped outside Aldermaston in that summer after the march…

PA: Yeah..

Interviewer: Was that for your presence or were you challenging workers going in and out?

PA: Um, er, I don't think the work, the gate, the main gates weren't the ones the work force used and I think we were **(2.23.00)** mainly at the main gates, I don't know why, at the worker's gates we would have been giving them leaflets, we weren't breaking the law, actually we did break the law but the police didn't seem to mind, we went into the forecourt but the, at the main gates, but the, sort of, there was a gate into the forecourt but the real main gate was the other side of the forecourt, if you see what I mean so whilst strictly speaking we were off limits, it wasn't so much, we weren't near enough to the actual place, you know where the work was done, that the police were bothered, they decided that they would just let us stay there I think we were, we'd probably told them that we were going to be there for a week and we by then had a reputation for not you know, for when we said we were doing something we did it and we didn't more and we didn't do less well, you know, unless we were removed, in which case of course we couldn't **(02.24.00)**

Interviewer: And would the press come out to see you there?

PA: Oh yes, I mean we'd do our best to get the press there, it certainly wasn't something that we didn't try our upmost to get, I mean, you know, I mean I think quite a lot of these things probably had a fair bit of press coverage, um. [talks of getting muddled with photographs] This is one that was taken on some occasion when I was standing as a candidate um, I have been two or three times fielded in general elections as a, by a sort of ad hoc committee, CND as such couldn't do this 'cos of their tight links with the Labour party, um well that was the sort of thinking behind it, um, so some sort of ad hoc committee was **(2.25.00),** a couple of times, was organised which served as my, er you know background to my being a candidate um. I think I was fielded as a candidate, parliamentary candidate in a general election three times in one place or another. It's quite a demanding role actually I mean, you're not into rule making but, you know, you're speaking at a, at a lot of meetings and you know, a lot of sort of outdoor meetings kind of ad hoc meetings um and you stay in a supporter's house, I, er, in a constituency. I mean this happened on two occasions that I was fielded in Fulham. That was because Michael, you know, one of the Labour big wigs was standing in Fulham I think and so they, we felt we ought to have somebody standing against him even though it was going to be token, you know, there was no question of the likelihood of you getting in, I've never wanted to be an MP anyway so if there'd been a chance of my getting elected **(2.26.00)** I don't think I would have agreed to stand, I didn't want to be an MP [laughs].

Interviewer: Were you part of the erm, group of people after the first Central Hall meeting that then marched to Whitehall?

PA: Er no I don't think I did, um, I, I don't know why not, I mean I was at that big rally um, but I don't think, no I didn't go to Whitehall I don't know why not, perhaps I just wasn't aware that it was happening um, I mean I didn't have any role in organising that meeting, it was organised by the newly co- newly sort of set up CND I think, the, that big rally. So no, the answer's I didn't, I think I'd remember if I had. I don't think the people who went there got into trouble with the police or broke the law or anything, as far as I can remember. Or did they? Do you..?

Interviewer: Well someone that I spoke to yesterday said that um, the police were very very heavy-handed to the extent that they, it was questioned afterwards and they think that's why at the Aldermaston march they were quite, they sort of stood back a little bit more.

PA: It's quite likely to be true, that could well be the case um, but no I would remember if I'd gone there, I, I ,I didn't um. What I did at the end of that rally I dunno, I suppose I just went home I mean I hadn't been organising that particular rally, um, or helping to organise it um, don't think I had any sort of, special kind of role at it.

[talking about other photographs not relevant: Asia, Iraq]

(2.28.54) Here's a graphic one of Will Warren getting arrested.

Interviewer: Can you tell me a little bit about the police at these demonstrations?

PA: My er, personal experience is that if you're not actually resisting, except in, in a non-violent way, um, you don't get, you know, you don't get badly handled. I don't think I ever really felt that I was brutally treated by the police, um, I've been picked up and dumped but I mean, er, you know, um, not deliberately dumped in such a way as to damage me or anything, injure me um, but you know just to clear the people away from where they were trying to blockade and I'd be, might be one of those people um. I think on the whole if you're reasonably sort of polite and regard them as human beings and they sense this **(2.30.00)** then they won't mistreat you, they're not particularly wanting to, to, to, I mean we don't always, we haven't in my experience been shouting epitaphs at the police, anti-police slogans and that kind of thing, on these demonstrations simply because we were not against the police, you know, not necessarily anarchists, there'd be plenty of anarchists among us but our purpose was to oppose nuclear armaments not the police and I think when, when they realised that um, they're probably not going to be feeling particularly malevolent towards, towards yourselves even though you may be non-violently sort of refusing to obey their instructions to get up and go [laughs]. I don't know, it's, it's, you know, they're difficult questions to answer and there, doesn't probably help that I obviously got my ones about the Irish campaign and CND thoroughly muddled up [talks more about Irish photos]. I think personally actually I've been in greater danger over actions I've taken part in, in Ireland than, than, in this country with the peace movement.

Interviewer: And can you tell me what your motivation slash thinking behind um, being involved in direct action was rather than kind of, um for instance Walter was making this distinction to me, he said that you two protest in very different ways.

PA: Well I think the people like, um, you know, Walter and, and CND in the early days felt that publicity-wise, it could be counter-productive, that, if you were opposing the police but in any case these were not demonstrations against the police but against, you know, a horrendous weapon but I think that the main feeling was that the image would be er, **(2.32.00)** sort of, you don't want to have a rapscallious, anti-authority kind of image. I think this is, sort of a certain amount of what is, what was in it um. I think some people like John Collins and so on must have got a bit embarrassed later on when there was so much publicity about the Direct Action side of things and he was never taking part in that, he was never actually running any, any risk, he never, as far as I know, broke any law actually um. I mean admittedly, sort of conspiracy and sedition are very wide sort of, well they've got a sort wide term of reference but um, I don't remember Peggy Duff ever, or did Peggy Duff on one occasion actually sit down on a blockade, I think she may have done and everybody noticed, 'oh now, Peggy Duff's sitting down, well well well', but um I don't remember ever seeing John Collins sort of taking that kind of position **(2.33.00)** er he seemed a bit too grand in a way I mean you know, he's sort of, I'm the great John, Canon John Collins and you can tell I'm a bit sort of er, some of that sort of anti-feeling of those days is all coming back to me a bit now looking at all these pictures and things looking back to it um. There was something rather sanctimonious about John Collins and his sort of whole manner and persona in a way that there wasn't about Donald Soper, the other eminent sort of clergy person, I mean Donald Soper seemed quite an earthy, down to earth sort of person and, and did risk arrest on, on one or two occasions anyway um but you sort of felt that John Collins was all a bit

upper middle class and preachy [laughs]. That's me anyway. I think he might rightly be suspicious of my motives um…[refers to more photographs]

(02.34.25)

Interviewer: And can you tell me um…sorry I was just going to say about the, the signing of the test ban treaty. Was that a momentous part in your kind of campaigning life?

PA: Ummm, no, not really I don't think. We still had the bomb um, I mean it's, CND kind of, to some extent grew out of the anti-test campaign um but there were people who opposed the tests without necessarily believing that Britain should get rid of its nuclear weapons unconditionally you know, naturally there were some, er, sorry what was your question again um..?

Interviewer: I was just, just wondering about that point and kind of, did you feel any disappointment that the CND movement almost lost a bit of its momentum after the signing?

PA: I, from time to time we sort of felt troubled that we, you know, when I say we I er, don't know quite what I mean, sort of kind of a col- collective ennui a bit you know, we'd done that sort of thing again and again and resisted arrest and so on and managed to be non-violent but er, make, get publicity and so on and you know, we still have the bomb and we still do have the bomb [laughs]

*Interviewer: So did um **(2.36.00)** after the signing of the test ban treaty did a group of people leave at that point?*

PA: No I don't think so um, I don't think it works that way with sort of movements, they wax and they wane and people you know, just like not after all feel that this is a demonstration I especially want to go on and the sense of urgency may fade and the sense of, you know, nuclear war is it, maybe imminent, which certainly a lot of people had including myself, probably you, you're both too young to, to think of, to recall that kind of period not long after the end of the second world war but um yeah I think some of the impetus could go, you know, you feel we've done all that before and do we want to just keep on and on doing it and I mean I certainly could get that feeling, you can imagine having been involved in this movement in a sense since the fifties um **(2.37.00).**

Interviewer: What do you think about the CND today?

PA: Well I'm a member of it [laughs] I take part, I was at Aldermaston recently I mean, you know we've still got nuclear weapons, we've still, the nature of the weapon is such that it, you know, it's, as far as I know could still go off by a kind of dreadful miscalculation um, this may have got remedied I mean, we used to make, a number of years ago, the CND made quite a, a point of pointing this out, you know, the danger of nuclear war by accident so this may have been sort of, this particular aspect of it may have been dealt with and remedied by now I, I have to admit to you I don't know, um. I mean I suppose, you know, I'm not active in the way I was, I mean well Christ I'm eighty-five but I mean that doesn't necessarily have anything to do

with it um **(2.38.00).** I suppose I'm rather pessimistic you know, that if the human animal, you know, discovered a, made a new invention, whether it's a peaceful one or not, I mean, you know it's, it's made and you can't really un-make what people have discovered through their technical expertise and um that possibly applies to nuclear weapons as it does to perhaps quite innocent, innocuous things with nothing to do with war at all, um. You can't unimagine what's been imagined and evolved, you can't unevolve things I don't think um. Don't whether there's any biological evidence that some animals have managed to, sort of, devolve rather than evolve um, don't know [laughs] **(2.39.00).**

[Discussion between Pat and Ruth about photographing the photographs]

(2.40.26) I'm not optimistic. I mean I think for the, what I've just said, you know, that you can't really get rid of things that have been mentally evolved, or can you, are there any examples in history of machines and so on that have been abandoned because they were useless um, I can't offhand think.

[Discussion and comparison of gun laws in the UK, US and Australia]

[Interview is paused whilst Pat shows Katie and Ruth paintings done by her own hand]

[Unclear] ...or something and I got picked up on it and taken back, quickly back to Holloway again to serve out the rest of my sentence minus some of the remand. Er you know, I'd got um, you get remission on sentence sort of automatically, but you can automatically lose it if you do wicked things so I did, I'd done this wicked thing and er so I lost my remission or most of I think.

Interviewer: Which, er time was that? So you were in prison 8 times...?

PA: Well I, I, I was, as was quite often the case, I was in Holloway and er they sent me off to open prison, Askham Grange up in Yorkshire. It is an open prison, you can just walk out. Though I found if I really wanted to make a getaway, which I did, I couldn't walk out - they'd see me and capture me and so on, so I picked my time when there wasn't anyone about and found a sort of secluded bit of fence where nobody would see, went over this little bit of fairly low fence and was off and away, hitchhiked to London, took part in the next demonstration (laughs) **(1.00)** and was, you know, I think they came for me. I suppose I was living here by then, um, anyway they came and got me after the end of the demonstration as far as I can remember, back off up to er, well not to Askham Grange again, they knew I'd do another runner, back to Holloway where I served out the rest of my sentence minus some of the remission I'd lost, I mean plus some of the remission I'd lost.

Interviewer: Amazing. Um so how many times were you in, in prison?

PA: Eleven. Some of them were only quite short sentences.

Interviewer: What was your longest sentence?

PA: Um, 18 months I think. I didn't do a full 18 months, b-because er, you do get remission sentence that means you don't do the full sentence unless you're particularly badly behaved, but I mean I think that was one of the ones where I did lose some of my remission through, I can't remember whether it was that or another sentence um. I know I had... If you're a civil prisoner which you, er this used to be the case anyway if you refuse to give an undertaking when ordered to do so to keep the peace - in other words not to repeat the offence - you are designated something called a civil prisoner, which means you can wear your own clothes in prison, which women can do anyway, um, but you have the great privilege of not getting any remission of sentence, so I got a couple of times I got sent down for 6 months for refusing to sign a binding-over order. On both occasions, I, I, I, I had to serve a full 6 months. Though I think there's a reward for something or another, I can't think what for, what else have they rewarded me for...? They restored one week (laughs) for what I should otherwise have had to serve (laughing). I mean I got off, you know, one week off the sentence that I should have served, um, but I mean it does all get faintly absurd. No doubt about it, I mean I'm not altogether being facetious when I say that going to boarding school is quite good training for this - it was. Um, you know, from the age of 10 you live in a community of girls and women, it means you've got used to living in a community of girls and women and er that's what prison's like, go to a women's prison.

Interviewer: What, what did it feel like the first time you went to prison?

PA: Well, er, like going to boarding school in many ways. It wasn't as bad as it might have been because the two of us went together, you know, the two of us working full time for the committee and so you know I wasn't sort of on my own so to speak, um, but it hadn't become er quite a normal thing to happen at that time, and er April who I went in with - colleague, work, you know we worked together, um - she'd already on previous occasions for the same thing more or less, going on a demonstration, having also worked on the organising for it, and she'd already had a brief experience of Holloway so, she, you know it wasn't such a, a shock to her going in the second, second time with me, but I think she found it all fairly shocking the first time - we weren't accustomed to this, you know.

Interviewer: Had she told you what to expect a little?

PA: To some extent I think she probably had, yes. I, I don't altogether remember now but um, I don't think there'd been women in, really much, for, for, except for ordinary criminal offences, since the suffragettes, and I think we were... one, one of the sentences I served was on a landing where suffragettes had been held, um, which was interesting. But that was in the old building, which they sort of demolished and now replaced with something that I don't think I've experienced. I don't think I've been in prison since they pulled the old prison down and built a new one.

Interviewer: Um, so you in Holloway, how many of the 11 times were you in...?

PA: Um

Interviewer: Was it all except for...

PA: Well I think because of I, by the time I went to open prison I was sent from Holloway to open prison and then back to Holloway again after I kicked out of the open prison, no after I'd done a runner from it and they wouldn't want me back after that, um.

Interviewer: And you went on hunger strike, is that right?

PA: Yes, I was on hunger strike for, that was in 'olloway. Um I suppose it was for about, I think it was for about 14 days. I've probably got it written in one of my articles that I've, you know, written, when I've been asked to write articles for some magazine or something I'll have put in, and I think it was about 14 days that I didn't take any, any food or anything except water. I, I've always taken water.

Interviewer: And could you remind us, just for the recording, um, why you decided to go on hunger strike?

PA: They wouldn't consult the prisoners about what work they should do, so I said, until they consult them, um, I'm not going to eat. So they didn't and I didn't. And then they did and so I began eating again.

Interviewer: Fair enough.

PA: Not for very long, because I was due to be released fairly soon anyway on that particular occasion. (laughs) But I mean I won the hunger strike, you know, they obviously were deterred - I mean it got a lot of press publicity. How I got those out, the story out, I really don't know now, but I, I certainly did and er

Interviewer: Was it just you?

PA: Yes, er it was me going on a hunger strike because they wouldn't, you know, consult the pris.. yes I don't think any, I don't think any of them, the prisoners conc-, directly concerned did... I can't quite remember now whether, whether I, possibly one or two of them did, or did for a time, I, you know, I just, that I don't really remember. I must re-read some of the articles I've written in the past and refresh my memory on some of these things.

Interviewer: And what do you think um the effect of you going to prison was on the campaign? Do you think the press...

PA: Oh you mean on, on, the, on the anti-nuclear disarmament, anti-nuclear movement? um, oh well I think it, it put sort of a certain amount of backbone into it if people go to prison and er are willing to take it seriously. It isn't the going to prison - you don't court arrest - or at least I, I wouldn't do that um but if there's a consequence of doing what you think ought to be done, that is, hold up the the the use of nuclear weapons, even if it's only a token hold up for a short time before you're arrested um, or removed from the scene so you can't do it anymore. But I mean, if it's for something like that and, you know, it's, you go into this with your eyes open and it's the price you pay, um... That's the way I look at it anyway um. But I mean I can't pretend that I was, you know, terribly badly treated or anything in prison and um, my sort of impression has been when I've been in prison there's, it's as if you, if you treat

the screws you know, as other kind of human beings and perhaps get quite friendly with some of them um, er you know, you you, it's like a lot of relationships in life and, treat the other people nicely and they'll, you know, be quite nice to you in return. I mean, I can remember, er, not too long after I was released after one of my longer sentences, I had two of them round to meal here, um, I guess I was living in this flat by then. And they came, and you know, they were screws I'd had quite friendly relationships with when I was in and, you know, talked to them about this and that and they to me and, sort of business of just treating other people as human beings. I mean, if you've gone to prison for peaceful reasons then, there's this, that's how you should behave I think.

Interviewer: Yeah. Is there anything else you remember about prison?

PA: It's easier if you shoot questions at me, because that gets me to going and I sort of remember things that I might not have otherwise...

Interviewer: You've shown us these sketches you made, um, whilst you were in prison...

PA: Yeah

Interviewer: W*hat were your daily activities like whilst you were in there? Were they quite lax about what you could get up to?*

PA: Well again, it would depend a bit on what category of prisoner you were. I mean, when you were on remand, well that's leave that out a bit, that's before you've been sentenced anyway, prisoners on remand, um. Well I think we got up probably about 7 o'clock um. Breakfast would be served on the wing, which is sort of fairly typical. I mean this is where boarding school, quite genuinely, without being facetious, is quite, not a bad background for this, you know, the kind of thing that happened at boarding school. Anyway, so you'd get up and you'd go down and, and er, I think yeah I think you took your breakfast up on a tray up to your cell and then breakfast would be probably a cereal and something else and a bit of toast, it was alright, I never felt terribly misused about the food I got. In those days of course I wasn't a vegetarian, but I became one before I'd finished my, before you know more recent sentences I'd become a vegetarian, but they would cater for vegetarians and for people with sort of unusual kind of tastes for whatever reason. Um and then I think you, you know got banged up in your cell for er, hour or so perhaps and then you know, off you went and did your job. Your cells were opened up and this is a sort of general kind of pattern, I mean there were variations of course, um, different categories of prison and so on, but this is sort of typical as far as I was concerned I think. After breakfast and after being banged up in my cell with my breakfast, I'd be let out and I'd go and do whatever job it was I was doing, um... I managed to persuade them on my, one of my longer sentences to let me do a gardening job, which was very nice, for it meant that I was out in the open air and having a thoroughly healthy time, I mean I, other times I'd been in, been a less interesting job - I worked in a laundry in my time and, can't quite think what other jobs I've done but I certainly, you know, remember working on one sentence for a long time outdoors and er I think I have been in a situation where I've been on punishment for either escaping or trying to escape or something and haven't been let out to work, but, you know, I can't quite remember this now, I need to reread

some of the articles I've written in the past about this to refresh my memory. But um anyway, after, after your work I think it was then that we had exercise but this might have been after the midday meal, um, it probably varied different sentences I was having but at a certain stage you'd go out on exercise in the prison sort of garden. Um this supervised by screws but otherwise you can walk round with sort of whoever you wanted to walk round with, and then afternoon was kind of a repeat again of what happened during the morning. I mean, you would go to your job, whatever it was that you were doing, and this would go on until teatime. Well, there wasn't a separate tea and supper I don't think, it was a sort of high tea I think. God, you know it's incredibly how much I've forgotten um, I think it was, I think it was a bit more than just sort of bread and butter and so on. There wasn't another meal after whatever this tea meal was, that was the, you know, the.. there was breakfast as I say, and lunch, and tea... well I'm not sure anyone needs more than that anyway. And then in the evening um there were classes, I mean they were optional, you weren't compelled to go to classes, but I think most people really were quite glad to, I mean there might be art or sewing or this or that and that would take up some of the evening. I seem to remember getting into play-reading at different times um. But you went off to bed pretty early actually, I mean the screws wanted to get out and have their spare time understandably. So I mean I think there was sort of cocoa or something, kind of last, kind of nutriment of any sort um and we were banged up I think at about, ooh pretty early - in the summer with double summer time it was hopeless, you didn't get to sleep for ages, but um I think it was probably about 7 we got banged up, and you were, that yeah you were locked in your cell, I mean they had er, you could ring if needed a screw to come for some reason but er I think we weren't expected as a rule to do this to use the lavatory, they had lavatory pots in the cells and you could use this after you were banged up and then empty it out the following morning. But again as I say it did seem to vary a bit from sentence to sentence, I was in sufficiently often um and you know in slightly different circumstances, it's a little hard to remember now clearly, but that was roughly the pattern of the day anyway in Holloway. I can't remember really what the pattern of the day was up at Askham, um wasn't there very long, I made off and did a runner too soon to have much experience of it. I don't think I have... oh yes, of course I was in prison in Scotland um, I was in Greenock for quite a time, that was really rather a bleak um um yes I was, I wasn't exactly a hunger strike but er because I wasn't going to be in long enough er, I don't know, but I seem to remember being in Greenock and sort of not eating um, Greenock was the main women's prison in Scotland, not far from Glasgow, but given a lot of our more sort of wicked demonstrations were up at lochs in Scotland and so on, Holy Loch and so on, that was how come I found myself in prison up there. It all seems a pretty long time ago now, I must admit.

Interviewer: You're talking about all these sentences as if you just took them in your stride, but was there any time when you were just utterly miserable at being incarcerated?

PA: Oh there were times when I was utterly miserable, I'm not sure that it was ever about being incarcerated particularly. I don't know, I can't remember that... Did I, I think I sometimes was a bit worried about claustrophobia, getting you know, banged up so that you know, a cell isn't a big place and I don't think I ever kind of summoned, rang the bell to summon a screw to say I was feeling claustrophobic, but I seem to remember feeling a bit claustrophobic sometimes. It's not what you asked me I know,

um, er. Well no, I don't think I, I, er I don't think I was kind of felt miserable for why you asked me, I mean for one thing, people knew you were in prison and, and you know if you were in prison for a worthy reason that people in the CND approved of, um, you know you were going to get a lot of support from people and nice letters from them and that kind of thing. I mean it boosted your moral a lot to get a whole lot of Christmas cards - I remember I was in at Christmas I think a couple of occasions and getting you know many more Christmas cards than I've ever got before or since just at home (laughs). You know it does boost your spirits.

Interviewer: Did you make friends with people in prison?

PA: Oh yes, I met one or two of them, you know, afterwards, and, yes because we weren't sort of banned from being in each other's cells at times when we weren't banged up and you know, you got to know people quite well, yes. I mean I think I, I think I told you didn't I, I had some screws come round here for a meal on one occasion. Um, the gardener, the one who ran the garden and I think she had a niece or something on the staff, anyway I seem to remember two coming round and having an evening meal with me here I think. Um, but yeah prisoners as well, you know, if they were out at the time I was, or if I'd sort of struck up a friendship with them. I realise it's ages, so long now since I was in prison actually I'm summoning... questions you asked me I can't even quite remember the answer, um. I know I did make some really quite good friends you know that I kept up with for a while after I was out of prison and, and I think in some cases you know met them by arrangement. Yes I think I sort of went off with one to a les- famous lesbian club in those days, I know, it was generally recognised that if you went to the gates in Chelsea, I don't if you've ever heard of it but it was the famous lesbian club um, you could be sure you'd see screws there or former prisoners, you know, you weren't going to be left sort of lonely there for long (laughs). But being in Chelsea, and me living here up in North London I wasn't apt to go there very often because it was just too much of a sweat to get there, but I did go a few times and met people I was quite glad to see again. I mean people were very sort of nice to me, fellow prisoners, I mean they would say, but not in a sort of beefing at me way, well you know she's the one that didn't ought to be here, you know. They shouldn't have locked her up. Thank goodness I felt the same, it was kind of nice that, you know, fellow prisoners could recognise this, but it didn't stop them, it didn't make them feel they didn't want to be friends with me or anything, I didn't have any sense of being Lady Muck. I mean there was one prisoner, I heard about this second hand, who got a 6 month sentence - I wasn't ever in with her - and she was literally an aristocrat, she was a Lady something or another, Jane Buxton, but I, I got sort of second hand accounts that they didn't, she wasn't liked much because she was, you know, a bit stuck up and unable to relax and just be friendly with people and... I suppose I just didn't really feel like that. People are people are people, and some of them are nice and some are horrid (laughs). But I found on the whole that people were quite nice to me, fellow prisoners and screws, so it all could have been much more punishing than in fact it was, um, but maybe that's just because I'm sort of what I am. Don't know how I sort of, it is a good many years now since I was last in prison, I don't really how, how well I'd take to it if I were to go in again now. I suppose I'd just get on with it. What about you? How would you feel about going to prison?

Interviewer: Yeah, I don't know, I guess if it was for something I believed in, then, in a way I'd be happy to do it.

PA: Yeah. How do you think you'd find it on a day to day sort of..

Interviewer: Yeah, I couldn't say, I mean...

PA: You can't really can you? I mean as I say it was boarding school that prepared me most for that really um.

Interviewer: I'm quite good at, yeah, with my own company so, I don't think that would..

PA: Well you don't necessarily get an awful lot of your own company I mean unless you're banged up in solitary as a punishment or something, I mean you're, you're very much, in my experience anyway, you're in a community, and this is why I found, thought you know well really boarding school was quite a good background, good training for this, because I was sent off to boarding school - they didn't use 'beyond control' in those days, and I'm not sure I was really that sort of tiresome - but you know I was sent there as rather a nuisance to my parents, and so on, when I was 10 years old. I think they were quite glad to be shot of me a fair amount of the time (laughing), otherwise they wouldn't have been... and I don't think they were, I was lucky in this, I don't think they were at all ashamed of my going to prison, they did recognise that I'd gone there you know for conscientious reasons and er they sort of respected er me for that. Well they could hardly do otherwise, and they sort of, you know, St Paul the Apostle got sort of clapped in the clinker, and goodness knows what.

Interviewer: Well thank you Pat, thank you for letting us go back and revisit that again.

PA: Well, I hope I haven't gone on too long...