

BARRY PETERS

Edited transcript of a recording of Barry Peters interviewed by Chris Eldon Lee at his home at Yaxham, Norfolk on 1st September 2010. Transcribed by Andy Smith, 30th October 2010.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:00:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is Barry Peters, recorded at his home at Yaxham, near Dereham in Norfolk by Chris Eldon Lee on the 1st of September 2010. Barry Peters, Part One.*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:00:15] Barry Peters: Name is Barry John Peters and my date of birth was 7/01/1938 and I was born in Bexley Heath in Kent.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:00:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you are now?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:00:28] Barry Peters: 72.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:00:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. Tell me a bit more about your childhood. What sort of childhood did you have?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:00:34] Barry Peters: Lived at Barnhurst during the first part of the war, and watched the sky over St Paul's light up when they were blitzing it. Then in 1942 or '43 (I can't remember which) we moved to a little village called Beltinge on the Kent coast, very close to Herne Bay, and that is where I spent my childhood. My parents took over a grocery shop there. My father was actually a machinist at Vickers in Crayford, making bits for guns, and was essentially medically lifted out, and took over this quiet little grocery store. So that is where I grew up: sailing and swimming and doing all the things one does on the coast.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:01:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *What sort of senior schooling did you have?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:01:33] Barry Peters: Grammar school in Faversham. For me: wrong education; I should have gone to a technical school.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:01:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *Oh really? Why do you say that?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:01:42] Barry Peters: My bent was always towards the technical side; anything from surveying to metalwork, woodwork, rather than languages and higher maths, etc. At that stage you could go to a secondary school at 11 and then go on to a technical college at 13, which would have been better for me. So I left grammar school at 16 with a couple of O-levels and went straight into college to qualify as a radio officer for the merchant navy.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:02:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *So what came first: wanting to be a sailor or wanting to be involved in radio?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:02:29] Barry Peters: Wanting to be a sailor, but with my eyesight you could not do a navigation course then. There were no navigators with glasses, if

you like. Heavy engineering, living in an engine room, I did not fancy it. So this idea that radio was the thing to do.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:02:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *So had you actually had crystal sets as a lad, or...?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:02:53] Barry Peters: No, not at all. I don't know why I did that in fact, but having got my ticket to operate, I decided that after all spending two years without seeing UK, because voyages in those days were pretty long, did not appeal; just staring at the sea day after day. At that time I was coming up 18 and was called up into the RAF where I played about with radar for three and a half years before Crown Agents said 'We need you'. Having had an interview for FIDS in the May, come June they said 'We need you' and within three days I was out of the RAF.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:03:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did the interview for FIDS come about? Was it something you saw in the paper?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:03:44] Barry Peters: I saw it in the *Telegraph*. In fact I had seen it the year before, in the *Overseas Telegraph* when I was in Cyprus for the RAF. This was in '59, the year I was due home. I had spent two and a half years in Cyprus by then. I said 'Ooh, I would not mind applying for that.' So I saw it the following year, in 1960, applied for it, and got a job as an ionospheric assistant.

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:04:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *What made you apply?*

Disc 1, Track 1 [0:04:47] Barry Peters: I think a number of things. The fact that my family was breaking up, or my parents were breaking up. I had got wanderlust anyway. I did not fancy a 9-to-5 job, and the thought of going South was quite interesting, not necessarily as a radio operator. But to maybe further my knowledge of the ionosphere and things like this. Because you do a little bit on your radio course for the merchant service, about the Heaviside layers, and bits and pieces. So I thought this would be interesting. But the funny part was, at the interview, if the ...I forget who it was, probably John Green or Bill Sloman said to me 'Well, if there is no post for an ionospheric assistant or technician, how would you like to become a meteorologist?' [Laughs]. 'Fine! If that is all that is on offer. Yes, I will do it.'

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:05:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *So let us backtrack a little bit. Can you remember your first connection or knowledge of the Antarctic? What was your first brush? Was it that famous film?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:05:34] Barry Peters: I think probably the famous film, yes.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:05:37] Chris Eldon Lee: *Scott of the Antarctic?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:05:38] Barry Peters: Yes, I think that. It stirs the imagination. I did not like the ending, particularly, but it does stir the imagination. But apart from that, I don't think I had too much knowledge of what I was getting into. Yes, you look at an Antarctic map and you think 'Cor, it is a big place!' but I had very little knowledge, if any of the bases. So I was quite fortunate, I think, to get it.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:06:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *What do you remember of the interview, bearing in mind it was fifty years ago?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:06:14] Barry Peters: I think probably having a cup of tea with Spode teacups. [Laughs] Why I should remember that, I don't know. I think it was probably Bill Sloman who was a wonderful character, had a very almost acerbic sense of humour, was talking about 'We will have tea out of the Spode, please.' This was at Crown Agents of course, at the time, just down the road from Crown Agents in Gayfere Street.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:06:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *So, just so I can understand this, did you apply to FIDS or to Crown Agents or were there...?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:06:58] Barry Peters: No, FIDS, but Crown Agents were interlinked with FIDS at that time, quite strongly. It was quite a marriage, and in fact we (FIDS) rented, or had use of offices at the back end of Crown Agents which was on Millbank. Down Gayfere Street there is another, separate office, which was quite fun in itself. I actually worked there for about three months, going through geophysical records for one of the geophysicists, a guy called Joe Farman, who you may have met.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:07:34] Chris Eldon Lee: *I have indeed. This was when you got back, wasn't it?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:07:36] Barry Peters: No. This was before I went. I did a course at ... What happened was that once I got out of the RAF in June (I should not have come out until September) I had a course at Slough on how to read ionograms: E-layers and F-layers, etcetera, and do the calculations and tabulations on maximum useable frequencies and all the things you do with ionospherics. Then, having finished that course, I was at a loose end from October/ November until we sailed at the beginning of December, so I spent a couple of months in Gayfere House, travelling to London each day. My mother by that time had moved to Wimbledon so it was a relatively easy journey. Working for Joe, and that was a fascinating building because Anne Todd, who you also probably know. Do you know Anne?

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:08:35] Chris Eldon Lee: *By reputation; still seeking an interview with her.*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:08:38] Barry Peters: Wonderful, wonderful lady. To get to Anne's office from where we were, up in the garret, you had to go all the way down to the ground floor, across the hallway, auditorium, whatever you like to call it, at the front and then right up another staircase the other side. You could not just go across. You had to go all the way round. So yes, it was quite fun. We used to fly paper aeroplanes out of the window and watch the crowds looking up as these things came floating down.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:09:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you were on the top floor, were you?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:09:08] Barry Peters: Yes, right in the garret.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:09:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *In your mind's eye you are remembering those offices. Now describe them to me.*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:09:14] Barry Peters: I don't know. Small, cramped, as I say right up in the gods. Great fun. You could look across into where all the ladies were working in the offices across the road. We used to hang out of the window and wave at them, as one did, when you were 20 or just gone.

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:09:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *What colour was it?*

Disc 1, Track 2 [0:09:42] Barry Peters: The offices? I cannot honestly remember but I would guess a dark creamy dirty colour, and maybe a bit of green. That seems to be ...

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:09:53] Chris Eldon Lee: *How many people would be there?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:09:57] Barry Peters: Oh, in the whole of the offices there were Sir Viv, plus Joe, myself, Mike, Anne Todd, probably a finance officer (I am not sure who that would have been at that time). Probably about eight or nine. Not very many. It has always been, certainly in FIDS days and in the first bit of when it became BAS, quite a small head office.

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:10:33] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was Joe Farman like in those days?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:10:37] Barry Peters: Joe is Joe. Joe has always been the same. If you have met him, you have met Joe as I knew him, when he was in Edinburgh or down here, in Cambridge. Never changes, got a wonderful record collection of the most hideous records you have ever heard, apart from some really wonderful ones. Very odd character but a great bloke.

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:11:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you detect a great scientist at work?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:11:07] Barry Peters: Not really. Very quiet, puffs his pipe. I don't know whether he is still smoking, because he must be getting on now; he was a bit older than me. Not really, I don't think. Somebody who knew what he was doing and somebody with a very good mind, but as for being 'great', if I can put that in inverted commas, no. Very down to earth sort of guy.

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:11:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you get on with him?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:11:42] Barry Peters: Yes, very well. In fact I stayed with him at Edinburgh a couple of times. I used to go up there, after I came back and started working for BAS again in '69. Part of my remit, apart from radio, was all sorts of other things like doing all the meteorology indents, the geophysics indents and, you name it. It could be post office, getting franks for the stamps and things like this. Carting scientific instruments or met instruments back to Negretti and Zambra or whoever in London or wherever, for recal and so forth. But that was a few years later, as I say.

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:12:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *What did you know about ionospherics when you were recruited?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:12:30] Barry Peters: I knew the basics, because they give you those on the radio course, because of course in those days there were no satellites, it was all HF communications and so Morse code was the thing and you had to know a little about what was happening in the ionosphere and what sort of times of day you could get through to the UK, to Portishead Radio or wherever. So I knew a little bit about the layers, but obviously I learned a lot more at Slough, at the Radio and Space Research Station.

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:13:01] Chris Eldon Lee: *How developed was the science in those days? Had they discovered most of what there was to discover?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:13:06] Barry Peters: Oh yes. It was pretty thoroughly discovered, and the RSRS at Slough, or Radio Research Station as it was then, RRS, was pretty well up and they had a World Data Centre there, so of course, when we came back from Halley, and from Faraday or Vernadsky as it now is, we guys used to sit down and sort out all the results and get them in tabular form to go into the World Data Centre for publication. So yes, it was a huge number of these ionospheric stations all taking vertical soundings, whether it was in Hyderabad or in the States or Australia, down South, up North. They were all tabulated, so at any time of day you could actually find out what sort of frequencies you should be using.

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:14:06] Chris Eldon Lee: *So, I know we are leaping ahead now but your work in the Antarctic, were you actually, almost day by day, deciding which frequencies the radio operator should use?*

Disc 1, Track 3 [0:14:16] Barry Peters: No. Because you only get an overhead reading of course and down South, especially at Halley in the auroral belt, anything can happen, and literally usually does. There could be days, if we had aurora, when you would not go anywhere. There would not be a peep on the radio. You could not get the met out, you could not get airletters out or in. You could not get the temperatures out or in. So there used to be a massive pile-up. Now I was not there as a radio op, but I did used to do a bit of radio operating to help the operators out. There were two in my first year: there was the Base Leader, Colin Johnson, and a guy called Eric Jones who is sadly no longer with us; he died quite young. Obviously they used to get fairly fraught. Colin, being Base Leader, had a lot of other work to do. We were constructing a new base at the same time, so it was quite hectic that first year, so I used to muck in and help where I could.

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:15:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *What I am trying to get a picture of is the kind of work you were doing whilst you were down there, and what that was adding to the overall knowledge of ionospherics.*

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:15:35] Barry Peters: Well, what we were doing was taking a continuous recording of what the ionospheric layers were doing above us. Then the following day, or when the film had finished, every three days or whatever it was, because it was 70-millimetre paper film then, from an oscilloscope, you would sit down and tabulate all the different parameters: foE, FoF2, etc. etc. An ionogram looks

like this, various layers and sort of curves if you like, and you take those off and measure them to see what frequencies they were giving you, because the equipment itself used to go from, I think it was 0.8 megacycles right up to 22 or something like this. So those results were not transmitted back; they were sent out at the end of the year, on paper, and then eventually they would be put into book form if you like and put through the World Data Centre, so that anybody could look at them. And from that you can draw maps rather like meteorological maps of barometric pressure and so forth. From those, anywhere in the world, if you got this data, you could see what sort of frequencies you should need to reach wherever you were going, whether it was Australia or ...

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:17:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the implication being that the scenario would be the same again the next year and the year after that.*

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:17:13] Barry Peters: No, it does change, because it changes according to sunspot cycle which is an 11-year cycle. So things change quite dramatically between sunspot min and sunspot max, and you get a lot more solar flares and other horrid effects which, as I say, cut your communications to zero, certainly on HF. Satellites are not quite as badly affected.

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:17:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *So how valuable then was the data, looking back on it now? How valuable was the data you were collecting?*

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:17:45] Barry Peters: Yes, because it all helped. It was part of the 'big picture', if you like. In itself, it probably was not all that valuable, but tied together with Faraday and all the other stations, everywhere from Hyderabad to Baghdad to wherever. They had all these ionospheric stations, all pinging radio waves directly upwards. Then it was part of the big picture. Intrinsicly, in itself, probably only of small importance, if you like.

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:18:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were the stations in the Southern Hemisphere, were they all using similar equipment, or was the equipment in the Antarctic ...? I think I met a guy who developed it, actually. Was the equipment in the Antarctic different?*

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:18:35] Barry Peters: Not really, no. It was built, I mean most of the ones that we used, OK I am sure that the Australians built their own and the Americans built their own, but all working on a very similar premise, all giving essentially similar results. It was actually built by Union Radio in Croydon, this machine, but it was developed in 1935 or '36 by a chap called Roy Piggott, and he was brilliant. He really was one of the world authorities on ionospherics and the ionosphere, an amazing man; I have so much respect for him.

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:19:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *You met him?*

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:19:23] Barry Peters: I worked for him.

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:19:24] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me a bit more about him. Why were you in awe of him?*

Disc 1, Track 4 [0:19:27] Barry Peters: He is a typical mad professor. I saw him lecture after I left BAS, before I came back to it in '69. I worked for Marconis, and I attended a series of lectures at Leicester University, and Piggott was there, with his tie round here, his shoes covered in mud, the laces undone, and his arms going 'hot and holy'. But he could explain things, to idiots like me. He was so far above my plane. He had studied under Edward Appleton. I think he had got a degree when he was about 18 or 19, he was that bright, and he had worked for Appleton. He had never bothered to take another degree. It was so much 'old hat'; he had got enough to go on with. An amazing man and had incredible ... During the war he was working on I think everything from the proximity fusing of shells to the ionosphere to almost splitting the atom. It was one of these jobs that could go anywhere, and after the war they dressed him up as a wing commander and sent him to Germany to get hold of some of the German scientists and engineers that had been working at Lindau, which is the German ionospheric institute, or was.

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:21:01] Chris Eldon Lee: *On Lake Constance.*

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:21:02] Barry Peters: Yes. [Transcriber comment: This is not quite right. The institute was in Austria and Piggott moved it to Katlenburg-Lindau in the British Occupied Sector, not the Lindau on Lake Constance. Andy Smith.] Piggott almost had his own private army, it was a bit like Popski, and by subterfuge, blackmail and employing anybody he could find out was a scheming little monkey, he would sort of deal on the black market. He would do anything to get these guys out: borrowed trucks from various places without people's permission.

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:21:31] Barry Peters: So he was quite an amazing guy. But as I say he was one of these guys, you would walk into his office and he would ask me to maybe sort out some papers for him and you would go into his office and you would say 'I can't find these papers anywhere.' His office was a bit squarer than this conservatory; piles of papers everywhere. You could not see the deck; that was gone, long gone. He would say 'Just a minute.' and he knew exactly where everything was. They had a ... A lady came in (this was well after the war, when I was back there some time later) from Germany, Hannah, who was going to tidy his office up, which she duly did, and of course he could not find a thing. [laughs] Bit when he got a promotion, I will always remember an old Standard Eight (drop head) car, and he came roaring back through the gates into the Radio Research Station, sagging at the springs with crates of beer in the back. He was this sort of guy, just a wonderful bloke, absolutely wonderful.

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:22:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was the context in which you worked for him?*

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:22:49] Barry Peters: When I came back (this was in '63), I acted as a gopher for him, and I would pick up bits of information. I built some bits of equipment up for IQSY which was '63/64. Things like that. In fact he was instrumental in getting me my job with Marconi, because he sent me across to Marconis. Sorry I am going a bit ahead of myself.

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:23:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *It does not matter.*

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:23:24] Barry Peters: When I came back, we were tabulating the results. Three of us came back: two from Halley, one from Faraday, and having done that we were pottering about. We were virtually due to leave BAS (yes it was BAS by then) and the Assistant Director came into the office one day, where the three of us were working, and said 'Who would like to go to Kenya?' Well, the other two were going back to university. Mike was doing a chemistry degree. I not sure what Ted was doing. But anyway I said 'I am free. I will go.' So I did a 9-month contract for the Royal Society, taking an ionospheric equipment out to Kenya, setting it up, building the mast and setting all the aerials up, teaching the local how to use it, working out of the University of Nairobi.

Disc 1, Track 5 [0:24:28] Barry Peters: So I had nine months of that and when I came back to Slough (my wife worked at Slough in fact, and we were engaged-ish) I went to work for Piggott as a gopher again. One day he sent me across to Marconi with some information for a chap called Les Barclay who was part of the ionospheric team at Halley during IGY. So having got to Marconis in Chelmsford, or Great Baddow to the research centre, had a chat with Les. He said 'Come and meet the group leader.' (a chap called Gerald Isted who was a Pathfinder pilot during the war). Anyway I got offered a job so since I was getting married a week later and was effectively out of work, I could not really turn it down. So that is how it all happened and then, after five years there with Marconi, GEC had taken over basically and you could see the writing on the wall. I am not sure how it happened, how I heard there was a job going at BAS. So anyway I applied and went through the Civil Service performance one does to get in, on probation as it were, and remained there until I retired.

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:25:56] Chris Eldon Lee: *Well that was your second spell at BAS. Let us go back a little bit, shall we?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:01] Barry Peters: Yes, sure. I am rabbiting.

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:04] Chris Eldon Lee: *No. it is absolutely fine; all the right information. Any order will do, as Eric Morecombe might say. Where does the 'beastie' fit, in the work you were doing?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:12] Barry Peters: It was a beamed electronic automatic ...

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *Signal transmitter?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:19] Barry Peters: No. I cannot remember now. There was the 'beastie' and the 'bastard'. The bastard was Stuart's, and that was the auroral bit. Beamed Electronic Automatic Stellar and Terrestrial Ionospheric Equipment, I think it was. Sorry, did you get that?

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *I got that. Yes, that is fine.*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:42] Barry Peters: The bastard I cannot remember but it was something about beamed automatic, something to do with aurora. That was a Sheffield experiment in fact.

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *So it was the beastie you were using?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:55] Barry Peters: It was a beastie, yes, a Union Radio Mark II, as it is known. As I say, pretty agricultural, it was electro-mechanical, which caused all sorts of untold headaches, but ...

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:27:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you mean?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:27:09] Barry Peters: Well, just maintaining it, contacts. I mean it turned a ring of I think it was about 56 brass contacts round it, hitting little pads. It had got copper strips on, and so forth, and these, of course, always wore. For example in that time you only had, because communications were not good, you could not just ring up and say 'Can you send me another set?' It was 'Please send me some. Just a few. Anything!' Otherwise you were down to making them, which was not always easy. So it was that sort of thing that caused problems, just headaches. But, fine, that was part of the job.

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:27:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you ever get results you were not expecting? Or was it all very predictable?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:28:06] Barry Peters: Yes, I mean Sporadic E for example does all sorts of funny things. I cannot remember any that I can recall. I can recall one or two things that have happened since, where, some years ago we had a pilot who was flying into Punta Arenas in southern Chile. He heard a B-Cal (British Caledonian at that time) aircraft calling on finals, and he assumed going into Sao Paulo on VHF. In fact he was going into Gatwick! Now what happens is that, very occasionally with VHF signals, which are effectively line-of-sight, what you get is: it hits a layer and it ducks right the way through this layer and then suddenly drops out at the other end. So it goes incredible distances. I mean it is very unusual but it does happen. There is that sort of thing, but when you are working at Halley, I don't think we have seen anything like that on HF, if you like. We used to do quite a bit of amateur work. We virtually all had amateur licences.

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:29:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *Radio hamming?*

Disc 1, Track 6 [0:29:10] Barry Peters: Yes. Again, there were quite interesting things happened there, where you would find that instead of being able to use the direct route across the continent to say New Zealand, it was better to go right round the globe. It was actually clearer on HF (and this was Morse Code of course) to go right round the globe, or occasionally voice if conditions were very good, rather than go the direct route. So odd things like that happened. That was all due to the aurora and solar flares and bits and pieces.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:30:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *So that makes me think that ionospherics is not a particularly precise or exact science.*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:30:14] Barry Peters: No; anything but. In later years, when I worked for Marconi, I did a series of experiments with a communications centre up in Yorkshire, and I had a piece of equipment there which was very much more advanced, where I could actually tell the communications duty officer that in half an hour that frequency that he was using to reach wherever would drop out, and he

would have to go to a lower frequency. There were looks of amazement, but it did actually work. But, as I say, that was very much more advanced and a lot further down the line, if you like. This was in the mid-sixties.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was it the fact that it was inexact, was that where the interest lay?*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:03] Barry Peters: Yes, I think so. It was more an art form than a science, if you like, in certain respects, anyway. That, and just the general life down there is brilliant.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Well, let us go now to your departure. You left on the Kista Dan, in December 1960.*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:21] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *And headed, just went straight South, didn't you?*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:27] Barry Peters: We stopped at Cape Verde for either, I guess, fuel, or water. Montevideo, spent three days, having a riot, our last swim etc. on the beach at Monte, and a lot of steak. Then sailed for Stanley, where we arrived on New Year's Day.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *'61?*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:53] Barry Peters: '61, which was not an ideal occasion to arrive, because if you prodded any of our people that worked there with a finger, they would have shattered like cut glass. There were absolutely stocious; not surprising. Stanley at that time was a bit of a Wild West town, it really was. Brilliant fun. We had quite a big office there then. The SecFids, the Finance Officer, quite a big stores. All the clothing stores were there. There were all the functions, if you like, of virtually a head office, and all the communications out of the Antarctic, from all the bases, went to Stanley. So if you wanted a camera, or ten crates of beer or whatever, you would go to Stanley. Yes, quite an interesting place at that time.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:32:49:] Chris Eldon Lee: *When you say Wild West, ...?*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:32:52] Barry Peters: Well, you could get banned from the local pubs, or you could ban yourself from the local pubs, and things used to happen. There were a lot of pranksters there. I remember the Finance Officer, who again sadly is no longer with us, a great character, riding bareback on a cow down Philomel Hill.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:33:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was his name?*

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:33:17] Barry Peters: Eric Salmon, great character. He used to play tricks in the office, on the girls. He was leafing through the phone book one day and he found Lambeth Palace. So he rang Jilly, his secretary, and said 'Can you ring this number and ask for Mr Bishop?' So she rings up. She did not see the funny side of it for about an hour. She rings up Lambeth Palace and asked for Mr Bishop and this

spectral voice said 'We have a lot of bishops here, my dear.' [laughs] So he was that sort of character. I think FIDS breeds them a bit. One of the guys got married. Not one of the BAS guys, but somebody that everybody knew. So when he was getting stocious with his bride in the pub, they emptied his house of every stick of furniture.

Disc 1, Track 7 [0:34:14] Barry Peters: So that was the sort of thing that happened. Eric lived next to the Reverend, in Stanley, and the Reverend kept geese, and they used to annoy Eric. So one night he leapt over the fence and wrung this goose's neck. So three days later, he invites the Rev to dinner, and of course produces this goose. So the Rev does not know what has happened to his goose, but says 'Very nice goose, this.' Eric: 'It should be. It is one of yours.' So, things like that used to happen quite frequently.

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:34:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there nevertheless a sense of organisation?*

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:34:54] Barry Peters: Oh yes. It was organised; it had to be, and in general it worked pretty well. It was only small but it was a tight organisation, because of course you only got one chance, every year, to get supplies in and out, for example. You could not just ring up and say 'Could you get me some next week?' So you had to be pretty rigorous about what you were asking for, and on the other hand the other end had to be pretty rigorous in getting it for you if they possibly could, and that still continues today. Or it certainly continued until I left, twelve years ago. It had got a lot more, obviously, technically and a lot broader in that whereas we used to dig a hole in the ice within the hut somewhere and build a two-hole [?? phonetic] around it, nowadays it has all got to be either composted, tanked out. Same with waste. Same with buildings. Last time I saw, I guess it was Halley I and a half, or Halley II, it was appearing through the ice shelf; as we came steaming in towards Halley, there was this building sticking out about fifty or sixty feet down. Of course you could not do that now. Fair enough.

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:36:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about your trip South then from Stanley. What do you recall? Because obviously these are very much first impressions, particularly for a new recruit.*

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:36:39] Barry Peters: From Stanley we went to South Georgia I think. I am not sure whether we went Bird Island first, and we dropped two guys: Lance Tickell, who must be retired now but worked eventually for BBC Bristol, for the wildlife people, and a guy called Harry Dollman, who had been down before. We certainly stopped in South G. They were still whaling at that time, so that was quite fascinating because there was a hell of a storm and we got stuck in there for a couple of days. The catchers brought their whales in, on to the plan for flensing, so that was quite an interesting, quite a gory ...and you could smell South Georgia twenty miles away, you really could. OK you got used to it fairly quickly, but fascinating place. We went to Admiralty Bay and picked up some dogs, because we had four pups given to us by Lauritzens, the shipping people, *Kista's* owners, which we bought down from UK. They were great fun to have on board, they really were. But anyway we picked up more dogs from there, and then, I am not sure whether we called at Signy or not, I cannot remember. The shipping records should be able to sort that one out. Or

whether we went straight to Halley. We arrived at Halley, I don't know, some time mid-January I guess.

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:38:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you have any idea what you were going to, and when you got there was it like, as you expected?*

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:38:19] Barry Peters: I had a little idea, because obviously on the way down, we had people who had been down before, not necessarily to Halley, but certainly had been South before. When I got there I think I was just awestruck by it, absolutely amazing place, it really is.

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:38:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you mean?*

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:38:42] Barry Peters: Well, it is suddenly like being a goldfish in a bowl of milk; it is all white. That sort of impression 'Gosh, this is incredible.' I had never seen anything like it. It had a beauty of its own. I mean Halley is not, when you compare it with somewhere like the Lemaire Channel or up on the Peninsula, it is a different sort of beauty. I mean it is like comparing, if you like, the Isle of Skye with Norfolk. There is no comparison. So it is two totally different things, but both in their own way, absolutely superb.

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:39:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *What sort of state was the base in when you arrived? Because it was not pristine was it, by any means, then, I don't believe?*

Disc 1, Track 8 [0:39:31] Barry Peters: No, but it was incredibly strong. It was built by A.V. Roe. It was the old base, the original base. I think it was A.V. Roe, and it was built on a diamond formation, and that has its own drawbacks, because it means that your corridors are very narrow, if you like, or it was one long hut effectively, with a little generator shed on the end, but incredibly strong. Yes, it was about 30ft/ 40ft down when we got there, because it had been built in '56, and Halley is in an area which does create a lot of drift. There is a lot of drift there.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:40:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *Accumulation?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:40:18] Barry Peters: Accumulation. So, yes, it was different.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:40:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was it creaking?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:40:28] Barry Peters: Not particularly, no. It dripped a bit, with water, where the heat was getting out, but no, I did not find it creaking particularly, not at that time. We had a lot of people on base that year, because there were something like thirty people on base, which is a hell of a lot to pack into quite a small hut. Because we had builders, and all sorts of people, tractor mechs, and so forth. As I say, you lived like a troglodyte, a bit. The big saving grace, I suppose, is that as far as we were concerned, our hut was 50/ 100 yards away, so you had to go out every day. It did not matter what the weather was like, you had to go out. So, yes, it was OK.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:41:21] Barry Peters: I think because a lot of people down there at that time were ex-Services, it was no great hardship. I mean I had lived in a tent for two and a half years, effectively, from the lowlands around Kyrenia right up to the top

of Troodos on Olympus in Cyprus, which is six and a half thousand feet. So you were used to “roughing it” in a small way. The clothing wasn’t bad; it wasn’t wonderful, because it was essentially ex-Services or Service clothing, so if you were lucky you got naval trousers which were relatively soft, or you got army trousers which chafed your thighs to bits. But you had string vests, woolly shirts, big jumpers and so forth.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there ever any fear it might cave in, with this weight of ice above you?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:22] Barry Peters: No.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *There were good physics reasons why that could not happen, were there?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:27] Barry Peters: I don’t think anybody bothered about it, to be honest. OK, if the roof had started going like this, I am sure people would have said ‘Oh, oh!’. But we were building another base at the same time, which was Harbrow’s Folly, as it was known. I don’t know whether you have come across that one?

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:45] Chris Eldon Lee: *Again?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:46] Barry Peters: It was called Harbrow’s Folly, Halley I and a half, built in ’62, it was sandwich ply panels, with wires running through so they could be pulled together tight, flat roof, girder frames on the inside. Major problem: they had only put in about a quarter of the bolts required to put the framework together. So it only lasted ... In fact one of my colleagues who was back from the first time I was at Halley, was back down as Base Leader in, it must have been ’65, and the roof caved in, so they had a hell of a winter with just plastic sheet over the roof. Not a nice year to be there.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:43:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the name you gave it again was ...?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:43:40] Barry Peters: Harbrow’s Folly, built by a company called Harbrow. Now who was responsible for lack of bolts and nuts to put the damned thing together, I am not sure. But again, when we were there, of course, it was brand new because we had built the thing, so there was a bunkroom block, then a little corridor and a main living block. So it was built like that. The interesting thing was: before I left, one of our guys lost his false teeth one night down the loo, and unfortunately he is dead now, a great friend of mine.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:44:23] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was his name?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:44:25] Barry Peters: John Holt.

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:44:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was he the cook?*

Disc 1, Track 9 [0:44:28] Barry Peters: Yes. He died of cancer, two years ago now. But I used to see him regularly when we went to Scotland. He and his wife, we used to get together. Poor old John lost some of his teeth, and we dangled him down the hole, which fortunately had not been used because it was the inaugural party, if you

like, for this wonderful new building, and found that there was a whacking great fissure running right under the bunkroom section. [laughs] So everybody trod very carefully after that. It was sitting on the bearers OK but there was this great big crack. It had obviously opened up a crevasse or something. But again, nobody seemed too bothered by it. It was not going to fall in the hole, so fine, why worry?

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:45:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *How old was the cook then, to have false teeth?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:45:21] Barry Peters: John?: Oh he was not very old. A lot younger than me, well not a lot younger. I guess he was 20/ 21. I was, what, 23?

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:45:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did his teeth turn up?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:45:32] Barry Peters: Yes, he found them. They were on a ledge, fortunately. But I mean in those days what you did was just got a load of paraffin, seal blubber, anything you could, scrap, junk, stick it down on the snow and watch it gradually burn its way down and create this large hole, and that was your loo. You had to chip all the icicles off it occasionally with a big ice chisel. That was part of the Saturday gash job, you know. So, it was pretty rough and ready?

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *So will the 'produce' remain down there.*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:08] Barry Peters: Sure, yes, which is another thing that cannot happen today.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *But it froze therefore it was not obnoxious.*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:13] Barry Peters: That's right. It was not obnoxious, no. The temperature at Halley I think has risen somewhat since then, but when I was there I think there was one day in two years when it actually went to about plus 0.2, above freezing, and that is when you have got bright sunlight and no wind. [humming noise] I am sorry that is our toilet; I have got to fix it. I think we need a new ... It is driving me nuts, that damned thing; I cannot get it right. No it was all pretty rough and ready, if you like, but great fun.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you find yourself having to do plumbing work in the Antarctic?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:51] Barry Peters: No.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *I mean you didn't spent all your time staring upwards, did you?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:46:55] Barry Peters: No. You used to get involved in the building project. All the labour was, all the gophers were people like me. The builders were directing, the chippies, and you were humping. So it was fine; there was plenty to do, and the same on all the bases. You just muck in on gash and you have got your set rota to do: a day's gash which is filling the water tanks, having a bath, treading your

washing in the bath because there were no washing machines down there in those days. Once a week you gaily trod up and down in the bath with all your dirty clothes and that was it.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:47:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *Effective?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:47:41] Barry Peters: Up to a point. If they got too bad, you threw them away.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:47:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you doing much travelling at that time?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:47:51] Barry Peters: I started travelling. The first year I had about four days out, I think, but that was, sadly, in August which is the coldest month, and it got down to -50+ and that is no fun camping. We were looking for a depot but there was a big crowd of us. It was not the way to travel.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:48:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *Can you elaborate on that?*

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:48:17] Barry Peters: Well, I am not sure if there were one or two, I think there were two Muskegs. We were looking for a depot about 40 or 50 miles away, maybe a bit more, and there were about eight of us on this trip, just to get off base, and it was bitterly cold. Of course in a Muskeg there is only room for two or three in the cab; it is not like a big Sno-cat or something. The rest of us were sitting on a Nansen sledge, and sitting on a Nansen sledge for any length of time not only gives you corns on your backside but you were frozen solid too, and you got to the stage where you were actually crying, trying to put the tent up and do the guy ropes and things. After four days it was obviously a waste of time.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:49:01] Barry Peters: Later on that year Colin and Denis Ardu (Colin Johnson the Base Leader and Denis who was a geologist) went off with a dog team and found it no problems, and had a good trip. But that was slightly later and it was slightly warmer. In fact they were travelling at night and sleeping during the day, because the surface was better during the night because it was cooler. But the second year I got out a bit, in fact with John Holt, and we went up onto the inland ice and followed a tractor train up there, fitted a radio up on the little hut there, spent a couple of day pootling round doing very little, enjoying the scenery and being away from base.

Disc 1, Track 10 [0:49:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the travel was mainly recreational, was it?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:49:50] Barry Peters: Yes, for me. It was not a field trip as such, just recreation.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:49:56] Chris Eldon Lee: *I gather there were jokers present at Halley as well, during your time. Is that right?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:50:03] Barry Peters: Jokers? Haircut jokers? Yes.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:50:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Well, various jokers. What do you remember?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:50:08] Barry Peters: Well, haircuts like hearts, clubs, diamonds and spades, for example, was one of them. But I don't know about jokers.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:50:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there not an emperor penguin in a state of unusual dress?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:50:24] Barry Peters: Yes, the one I remember is Eric Jones. We had all tied on a party the night before. Parties used to happen spontaneously. One night somebody would say 'I am a bit fed up. Let's get the beers out.' So a group of you would get together and, Lo and Behold, next morning there was this penguin that Mike Thurston had got in. Well we had got several in, in fact, but this one is plodding its way up this corridor and Eric is coming the other way, obviously absolutely pie-eyed, thinks he has got DTs, so he goes back to bed for a couple of days. But this penguin was wearing a bow tie which probably made him think he perhaps ought to go back to bed. [laughs]

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:51:10] Chris Eldon Lee: *Eric Salmon again?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:51:12] Barry Peters: No this is Eric Jones, the radio op. Eric was in Stanley. He was the ... He had been at Signy, I think, a couple of years before. But that was Eric Jones, that one I remember.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:51:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *Mike Thurston was studying penguins, was he not?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:51:28] Barry Peters: Yes, he was.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:51:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *What do you remember of that?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:51:31] Barry Peters: He used to have a little field hut down in Emperor Bay, right in the middle of the colony, or just up above the colony in fact, and we used to take turns to spend maybe a week or if it blew and they could not come down and pick you up, two weeks down there, just living on hardtack rations and counting penguins, dissecting the odd penguin to see what had happened to it. But Mike disappeared. I have never heard from him since. He seems to have disappeared off the face of the earth. I do not know where he is now.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:52:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *At the time, correct me if I have got this wrong, was he not actually keeping penguins in captivity, so to speak.*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:52:13] Barry Peters: Yes. He kept, there was half a dozen or so. What he was doing was weighing them every morning. He had them in an ice cave. Now emperor penguins get something similar to silicosis if they are kept in captivity, so essentially they are all doomed. But for a while, what he was doing was keeping them in the ice cave and then every morning he would bring them up into the corridor, into the bathroom, and weigh them on the scales, really to see how much they were

losing, and check their fat thickness and so forth. That is the sort of experiment he was doing. Counting as well.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:52:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was it [?? inaudible] what the value of that was?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:52:54] Barry Peters: I don't know. I don't think he was working for a higher degree or anything, I don't think he was going to write a thesis on it. No it was just one of those projects where someone had said 'I know, we will go forth and do this.'

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:53:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were there experiments being conducted on the human beings as well?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:53:13] Barry Peters: Yes, various things like (I can't really remember) immersing hands in cold water, or fingers in cold water, and things like this. Various other ones: David Easty, who was the doctor in the first year I was there, a young doctor. He was very good. I think he was taking blood as well. Blood-sucking every year. 'Oh God, the vampire is here again.'

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:53:40] Chris Eldon Lee: *Do you know why?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:53:42] Barry Peters: No. MRC, medical research. It all goes back to the ... Somebody must do something with it, hopefully. I would hate to think I had given my blood in vain [laughs], but I do not know what happened.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:53:58] Chris Eldon Lee: *How were communications in the early '60's?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:54:02] Barry Peters: Sparse. That is what I was saying earlier. Some days you just could not get through to Stanley at all, and everything linked in to Stanley. Stanley then passed it through. The Government Wireless Station passed it to the World Date Centre, or the Met Centre in - there is one in Chile, I think, either Chile or Argentina. They passed all the information on there. Then eventually it went to Washington, to the sort of hub.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:54:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was it all going out on Morse key?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:54:34] Barry Peters: All on CW, yes. All on Morse.

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:54:36] Chris Eldon Lee: *All letters?*

Disc 1, Track 11 [0:54:37] Barry Peters: Mainly groups; mainly 5-figure groups. All the met, temperature measurements where you were flying balloons every day, getting pressure and so forth. And every three-hourly obs. That is why there were about half a dozen meteorologists there, because it was covered 24 hours a day, every three hours.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:54:59] Chris Eldon Lee: *Again, I know that was not your speciality, but was that work that valuable? Or was it again just part of routine?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:55:08] Barry Peters: Oh, routine in many ways, but, again, you are looking at a world-wide network. You are not looking at individual stations, you are looking at being one of a mass of stations making pressure maps, etc. for the whole world. Now what use they might be, because tongue in cheek I might add that despite all the million pound computers, they do not seem to always get the weather right. Perhaps they should look out of the window occasionally. It was part of the whole project, rather like ours was, the ionospheric project. It was not a sort of singular thing and somebody cries 'Eureka. I have discovered something.' It was routine.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:55:55] Chris Eldon Lee: *But on the other hand, was this the kind of work that gave Joe Farman and his team, in the mid-80s, the background information they needed to predict or establish the existence of global warming? Or the ozone hole, I should say.*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:56:11] Barry Peters: In a way, yes. Not the met itself, but the geophysics that they were doing, Faraday especially, and at Halley, but Faraday seemed to be the place. There were three guys involved in that, really: Jon Franklin [Transcriber comment: Actually it was Jon Shanklin, and Brian Gardiner. Andy Smith]. Brian (what was his other name? little Scots lad, very nice guy) Cannot remember his surname.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:56:42] Chris Eldon Lee: *You mean in '85?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:56:43] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:56:45] Chris Eldon Lee: *I know who you mean.*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:56:47] Barry Peters: Yes, Brian, Jon Franklin, and Joe were really the people behind that. Now I think Jon (I am not sure where Brian was) was actually on Faraday at that time, or had just come out, and it was his results that were causing speculation, if you like. But yes, that was the result of many years of routine observations, geophysical observations. So yes, it does bear fruit eventually, or some of it does.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:57:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *There was also, of course, the political purpose of being there as well, wasn't there? Was that something that was evident to you then or has that only occurred to you later?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:57:30] Barry Peters: No, it was evident then, especially the way things went by the time we had come out, almost certainly. You see Argentina has always been the same. When it has internal unrest, it always points the finger at the Falklands. It is like depressions in this country. You go through this cycle, so every so often ... Argentina is a beautiful country; it is very rich in minerals, farming or agriculture, wine growing. You name it, it has got it. Mining. But they cannot seem to get their act together. So every now and again, all the workers jump up and down, and they say 'We cannot tell a lie. It is the Falklands trouble.' So everybody goes 'Hey!' That is very simplistic obviously.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:58:22] Chris Eldon Lee: *But you were aware that you were a political presence were you?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:58:27] Barry Peters: Oh yes.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:58:28] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you blatantly aware or was it something ...?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:58:30] Barry Peters: No, it was just something very much, at that time in the background. South G was the gateway to the Antarctic, really, that sector of the Antarctic, and of course everybody was claiming it. So there was little from the other bases, especially before my time. There would be protest notes flying backwards and forwards. Everybody was happy down there, but for the sake of their government's face, they would present a protest note, and a little protest note would go the other way, and then they would all get together and drink up, sort of thing.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:59:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there any significant change in your second season, '61/'62? Different Base Leader of course, Mike Jarman.*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:59:17] Barry Peters: Different Base Leader.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:59:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *Different approach?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:59:19] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:59:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *In what way?*

Disc 1, Track 12 [0:59:21] Barry Peters: Very much left alone to get on with things. If we needed fuel, or coal, or whatever, or the chef wanted some food up, saying 'Oi, we need a gang to go down.' and then you would say afterward to Mike 'We have done this.' So he did not lead in the same way as Colin led, which I think was what we needed in that first season. In the second season the base ran itself, because we all knew what was required, if you like, so if somebody wanted or needed a fuel run, you used to go down and dig out a dozen forty-gallon drums and bring them up to base and then say to Mike 'Put that in your report.' or whatever. So, yes, very different atmosphere.

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:00:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *Less fun? More fun? Same fun?*

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:00:14] Barry Peters: I don't know. There was still the hilarity, and the jokes. There were still the grumpy episodes, where you maybe said the wrong thing at the wrong time to the wrong person and they took umbrage, but it tended to blow over, generally. But yes, about the same. It is very interesting. I was told this when we went on base for the first time, that you were looked on as an alien, an interloper, and it is true because you have your own little gang that have lived together for a year in very close proximity, and then all of a sudden you have all these strangers asking [?? inaudible] questions. I hope that does not sound too ungracious, as it were, but it is the way it is down there, and I am sure it is still the same now. If you have lived together, seven or eight of you now, in the winter say at Rothera or wherever and then this bunch come in, start prodding about and poking about and asking stupid questions, or

what you consider stupid because you know it anyway, Invariably everybody gets colds, because of course you are bug-free. Once you have had a cold down there, that is it. You very rarely get ill down there unless you are very unlucky.

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:01:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you sorry to have to come away?*

Disc 1, Track 13 [0:01:46] Barry Peters: Yes. You feel, when you get on the ship, you feel as if you should be on the ice waving goodbye – very strange feeling indeed. And especially seeing Stanley again, for example, which is not exactly a great metropolis but you think ‘God! Cars.’ Arriving in Southampton, because I sailed back as well of course. At that time, everybody did. The traffic was horrendous, absolutely appalling, but you soon get used to it again.

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:02:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you imagine you would ever go back?*

Disc 1, Track 13 [0:02:26] Barry Peters: No, I did not. I don’t think the thought ever occurred. There were other things. As I say, having been home six months, I was away again to Kenya for nine months. Then even with Marconi I was out of the office for two 24 periods in any week, for a lot of the time. When I was free (because I was working on a major government contract) for whatever reason, either they had run out of money or they were deliberating on something, I used to go off with the television survey teams. Of course at that time they were surveying for colour TV, and that was quite fascinating building a 150-foot mast and running round in ever increasing circles doing survey readings of signal strength etc., especially round Leeds and places like that, where you go down the back-to-backs and you would have this extending mast on a Landrover, with an aerial on the top which you could swivel. All the women used to lean over their gates and think you were the television licensing people and they did not like you one little bit. Quite interesting. Either that or you would be trundling along quite happily and there would be a great big fizz and a bang and the mast would come down. You had chopped through a power line. So, yes, interesting times.

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:03:56] Chris Eldon Lee: *Well you did go back and we will discuss that, if we may, on Disc Two.*

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:04:00] Barry Peters: Yes, that’s fine.

Disc 1, Track 13 [1:04:01] [End of Part One]

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:00:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *This is Barry Peters, recorded at his home at Yaxham, near Dereham in Norfolk by Chris Eldon Lee on the 1st of September 2010. Barry Peters, Part Two.*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:00:14] Chris Eldon Lee: *Let us pick up now, Barry, if we may, with your second spell with BAS and I am just wondering how it came about. What happened?*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:00:22] Barry Peters: As I say, I was chuntering along quite happily at Marconi but when GEC took over, the writing was on the wall that things were going to change quite dramatically. I am not sure whether somebody contacted me or

whether I had seen something in the paper again about a job in BAS on a permanent basis. Anyway I got in touch with Bill Sloman, I would think (I can't remember really who it was) and he said 'Well come for interview. It's a Civil Service interview so there will be so there will be someone else from NERC on the panel, etc. So I went for this interview which did not go very well, actually, because most of my work was quite highly classified when I was with Marconi and it is very difficult to answer questions without prevaricating and obviously when you do that, people see through it. So in the end I just had to say 'I am sorry. Official Secrets Act.' But anyway I heard absolutely nothing for about three months.

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:42] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did this job have a title?*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:44] Barry Peters: Just Logistics Officer.

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right. In the head office?*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:48] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *Which at that time was still in London?*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:50] Barry Peters: Was Victoria, just behind Victoria station. I cannot remember the name of the road. I could find it probably.

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:01:57] Chris Eldon Lee: *And had you had no contact with BAS at all for seven years? 6 or 7 years?*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:02:02] Barry Peters: Very little, if any. So it was out of the blue a bit. I had still got the wanderlust and I had been quite lucky at Marconis because I had been across to Norway a couple of times and I was out quite a lot of the time from the office.

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:02:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *So did the job imply that you would be going South again?*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:02:22] Barry Peters: Yes, and there was also more money. That was one of the things that irritated me about Marconi, because directly they knew I had applied, it was 'Well I am sure we can match it.' My attitude was 'If you can match it, you should have done it before. I am not open to that.' Also the lure of going South was obviously [?? inaudible]

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:02:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you applied for this job. The interview did not go terribly well.*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:02:52] Barry Peters: No, it did not go terribly well. I heard absolutely nothing and thought 'Well that's it. Forget it.' In the end I think it was Margaret probably who pushed me into ringing. When I rang Bill and said 'Look, I have heard absolutely nothing. I presume I have not got it.' And there was a stunned silence, and he said 'Haven't you heard?' and I said 'No.' So he said 'Right.' So anyway about three days later there was a letter saying I had got the job. Partly I think although the interview did not go well, because they knew me. They knew me from

Halley. They knew that probably I was capable of more than I was able to give at the interview. So anyway I duly turned up at 90 whatever it was, just behind Victoria station and at that time my boss was Derek Gipps who you may have met.

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:03:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *I have heard about him.*

Disc 2, Track 1 [0:03:48] Barry Peters: Brilliant. Another wonderful bloke. Ex Crown Agents. Paul Whiteman who was the senior tech there, myself, and a chap called David Rampton who did not stay with BAS very long; he went to NERC. At that stage there would have been Sir Vivian, Eleanor, three or four secretaries, Eric Salmon, three people in Accounts (three lasses) and ourselves, and Anne Todd, and that was it. We rushed around and did everything. So all the indents, for example. It was literally a very broad-based job: not only communications but also things like post office, all the meteorology, geophysics, anything that came up, some of the biology. So it was a really brilliant job because you never knew quite what you were doing from day to day and it was always a rush. At the last minute you would be rushing round buying two gross of AA batteries and things like this, out of petty cash. So you would go out to Woolworths waving a huge wad of notes.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:05:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *So quartermastering as well then?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:05:02] Barry Peters: Oh yes, doing all sorts of things. So that was the start of it. That was from '69 and that was the year *Bransfield* was being built. Up in Leith I think she was built, and then she went up to Dundee for the superstructure and bits to be put on. So I did not go South that year. It was the end of '70 before I went South, October '70. I flew down then to Montevideo and picked up the *John Biscoe* I think, as far as I remember it, and toured all round the bases. Obviously most of which I had never seen., because when you went to Halley, you essentially went (apart from South G) to Halley and back again. So yes, and the job snowballed from there. At that time we had our own wireless station.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *In London?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:15] Barry Peters: No, no, in the Falklands. So I linked directly with the chief engineer and the boss of Stanley at that time, Ted Clapp.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:25] Chris Eldon Lee: *When you say wireless station, you mean a broadcasting station?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:27] Barry Peters: No, no. This is purely for communication. What happened was that ... Again when I went back, it had moved on apace. Well not a pace but half a pace. It had gone to teleprinters, so it was quite modern machinery, if you like, compared with Morse code and the key.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *So teleprinters in Stanley were picking up, they were communicating with London?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:50] Barry Peters: They were communicating. We had a half-speed circuit which we shared with FCO.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:06:59] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was this a wire?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:07:00] Barry Peters: No, it was all on HF, but it was teleprinter HF rather than Morse code. I think it was a half-speed circuit or a quarter-speed circuit which we shared with ESRO and FCO. Obviously from that you got the political angle coming in from FCO. This was in '70.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:07:27] Chris Eldon Lee: *FCO is Foreign and Commonwealth Office?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:07:29] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:07:30] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the other one was?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:07:31] Barry Peters: ESRO: European Space Research Organisation, and they had a sounder there, an ionospheric sounder and various other bits and pieces I think as well, riometers and so forth. So anyway I did my tour of the bases, six months. I went to Adelaide, and all round. I think that was the time when Dick Laws went back as well, I think in '70 (I cannot remember.) I think he was on that first trip, and I think he was being groomed, at that time, to take over from Sir Viv later on. Then again, I continued doing that for I suppose two or three years and then it broadened out. They wanted in ... No it must have been '74/5, they were closing the Stanley Office. Everybody was coming back to the UK. So all the clothing stores and everything else had to come back to UK. So they said to me 'Go forth and sort it all out.' So I spent some time in Stanley.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:08:45] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was the logic behind that?*

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:08:48] Barry Peters: I am not really sure, because there were certainly no redundancies or payoffs as far as I remember. A lot of people went to NERC in Swindon, who were taking much more of an interest in BAS, to the extent where they were starting to interfere a little bit. But in general it worked quite well. We set up... because we of course in '75 moved to Cambridge, so we had the stores, we had the huge space needed to store boots from size 7 to 13 or whatever, and all the clothing in different sizes. So I think the feeling was that it was quite expensive to run, Stanley, as a sort of substation of UK.

Disc 2, Track 2 [0:09:46] Barry Peters: The radio side of it was being turned over to Cable & Wireless. I think that was about the same time. A great friend of mine, who again sadly is now dead, Ian Stewart, who was chief engineer for us, went to Cable & Wireless as manager of Cable & Wireless. So I spend some time in Stanley getting everything packed up and logging everything, getting it ready for shipping and so forth, and eventually did a run round the bases and then came back to the UK. That was the sort of life. Little interesting things cropped up. For example, when the *Biscoe* was scrapped, which was a bit later on, there were portraits of the Queen and Prince Philip on board. Now they have to be sent back to, I forget where it was, but it was some House somewhere, that holds all the portraits. So there was me on the Tube with two portraits taking them back to this house, because they are all numbered, logged out and logged in. So, fascinating little things that you do not think about.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:11:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did you meet Sir Anthony Blunt?*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:11:07] Barry Peters: No. [laughs] Not as far as I know. No, wrong era, and he was not the portrait man was he? He was the art man. Going to places like taking the met instruments back to Negretti and Zambra, which is up a little tiny staircase, on the second floor of some, I forget where it was now; the East End I think, somewhere. Taking met instruments back, that was quite fascinating too, seeing how companies worked in those days.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:11:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *The word "logistics" does sound like a catch-all, doesn't it?*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:11:47] Barry Peters: Oh, it is, and it was none the worse for that, because you could turn your hand to anything, buy anything. You just looked in the book, found what you wanted, or who made what you wanted, and then rang them up and chased them.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:12:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you ever aware of budgetary pressures, organising all these stores to go South?*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:12:06] Barry Peters: Oh yes, and that still exists now of course, to an even greater extent.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:12:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *It is now, of course, but I was just wondering whether there was a more relaxed air about it in the '60s?*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:12:20] Barry Peters: Yes there was, but the budgets were so much smaller. FIDS existed on about a million quid a year. And now: *James Clark Ross* cost what, 38 million, just to get it off the yard, without all the junk they put on it. Not junk, scientific gear.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:12:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *I am leaping about a bit. I do apologise. So when Stanley was closed, everybody came back to London. Presumably you had to find somewhere bigger to put them?*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:12:47] Barry Peters: No, a lot of them went straight to NERC in Swindon. 'Clem' Clements, the stores man, went straight to NERC, Ted Clapp went straight to NERC. A lot of the other people were locals, Stanley people, so of course they just got other jobs.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *It must have been difficult actually, I would think.*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:15] Barry Peters: Well yes and no. Most Falklanders can turn their hand to almost anything. They are an incredibly good bunch in that way. They can go fishing or they can start up a little market garden, or whatever. And that is the sort of thing they did.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *So that closing of Stanley in seventy...*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:34] Barry Peters: It was about '75 I think.

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *I am sure you are roughly right. Was that the beginning of a cultural change do you think, in the organisation, because then shortly after that there was the move to Cambridge, Sir Vivian going, Dick Laws taking over? Obviously a sequence here which began with the closure of Stanley.*

Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:52] Barry Peters: Yes, and all the scientific staff from the universities coming together in Cambridge, which is a tremendous bonus, because you could wander down the corridor and talk to somebody face to face, instead of having to go to Edinburgh or Birmingham or wherever, Monkswold in Cambridgeshire or Bristol for glaciology. So that was a tremendous advantage, coming together in Cambridge. I am sure that, certainly the people from Edinburgh probably, like Joe Farman, Dave Limbert, a lot of the others did not want to leave Edinburgh, but in the long run it was such a bonus for people like myself who were having to go up there and spend two or three days looking at indents with them and deciding what they really wanted, and making sure that they got exactly what they wanted right. So from my point of view, as a logistics man, was so much better.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:14:59] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was there some real resistance to the centralisation of BAS or did people toe the line?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:15:04] Barry Peters: There was resistance to where it was going to go, whether it was Plymouth, Southampton or Cambridge, I think were the three favourites, probably Southampton and Cambridge. The “committee”, in inverted commas, who decide these things, were mostly Cambridge men, so guess where it went.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:15:28] Chris Eldon Lee: *Handy for Dick Laws' house?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:15:30] Barry Peters: Well handy for Sir Viv as well, and Charles Swithinbank, another brilliant bloke. I have a great respect for Charles. He was working at Scott Polar I think at that time. It was not a bad place to live. Commuting was pretty awful but you get used to it. I used to ride a motorbike; I don't like cars particularly.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *Did it work, the new HQ?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:02] Barry Peters: Yes it did. I think it brought people closer together, because you would see them at smoko up in the canteen. Certainly from my point of view, I found I got on with the scientists much better, because I could wander down or say ‘Can you spare me five minutes? Can we just talk about this? What exactly do you want?’ Because there is nothing like going South and then finding that the bloke had forgotten his batteries, or whatever. When you see it you can say ‘Have you thought of this? Do you need that?’ So much easier than trying to do it on a phone at long distance, so from that point of view, yes it was great.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *I missed out a year, didn't I, when you went to All Saints Passage in Cambridge before you went to ...?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:55] Barry Peters: Yes that was fascinating.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:56] Chris Eldon Lee: *Why?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:57] Barry Peters: We had a clothing rep came in, a guy called Sam Sever. Have you heard this one?

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:17:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *No, go on. No I haven't.*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:] Barry Peters: Well Sam was a little Jewish guy who worked out of East London. He used to make all our anoraks, ventile, lightweight and sledging anoraks. Anyway Sam came in, and he walked through the front door and he said 'I know this building. I was here during the war, and he went through the building and he said 'That room was one huge sandpit. We used to make models in there for various operations.' He was with SOE during the war.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:17:36] Chris Eldon Lee: *SOE?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:17:38] Barry Peters: Special Operations Executive. Most unlikely guy. It was absolutely amazing. Fascinating just to listen to him say 'This room was so and so. This room we had ...' But the funniest part was: Do you know Alan Smith? Have you talked to Alan?

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:17:59] Chris Eldon Lee: *Big Al?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:18:00] Barry Peters: Yes, Big Al. One day, we used to nip out to get a bite of lunch or go for a pint or something. Walked out of the front steps in All Saints Passage, and it is quite a narrow passage, and Anne Todd walked out one day and was totally knocked flying by a bike. Students used to hurtle down there on their bikes which was naughty. So anyway, poor old Anne, she was a bit shaken up. Next day Big Al walks out of the door. Bang! And the bicycle was buckled; the bloke fell on his back and said 'What did you do that for?' And Al went 'Aargh!' and he picked his bike up a scuttled off. [laughs] So, yes, it was a good place to be, it was quite an interesting place to work.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:18:49] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the closure of Stanley was because of the forthcoming ...?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:18:55] Barry Peters: Yes, '74 I think. No it was after that because the building, I moved straight in and sorted out clothing onto the racking, so it must have been '75 or '76.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:19:05] Chris Eldon Lee: *But it was all part of a centralisation of BAS?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:19:08] Barry Peters: It was, yes.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:19:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *And did you sense that there was any mistake attached to closing Stanley? Were there weaknesses which emerged because Stanley had gone?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:19:21] Barry Peters: Comms were difficult.

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:19:24] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you mean by that?*

Disc 2, Track 4 [0:19:26] Barry Peters: Well I think by that time we had a full speed teleprinter link, 50 words a minute or whatever, but comms could still be difficult, because you were still relaying through not just Portishead but other stations: Brierley Hill and so forth, through BT, and I don't know that it caused me particular problems, thinking back; maybe a bit of frustration. I do not think there was too much in the way of hassle as far as I was concerned.

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:20:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *So you were communicating directly from Cambridge to Halley, for example?*

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:20:12] Barry Peters: Well you were linking through, yes. It was linking through a teleprinter to Stanley, through Cable & Wireless. Then it was linked onwards to the bases.

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:20:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *So there was still a repeater station?*

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:20:23] Barry Peters: There was still a repeater. Then I was going up and down South every other year virtually: '71, '73, '75, '77, '79, '81, etcetera etcetera. Obviously it was not wonderful but it was better than we had had.

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:20:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *What were the big leaps forward in communications?*

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:20:52] Barry Peters: In '81 we started looking at Marisat, which is the maritime satellite communications system, which was essentially an American thing. Marisat was very strictly controlled to maritime ships only. Now being a maritime equipment, it was fairly bomb-proof. It was encased in a dome. We looked at that in '81 and early in '82 or maybe late '81 there was a conference in London, and INMARSAT was formed, which was the International Maritime Satellite systems. Now Inmarsat, again, was essentially maritime, but we got hold of, I don't know whether it was BT, and talked to them, and said 'Look, this is the only system where, with any luck,...', because it only existed on three satellites at that time, and from Halley the angle into the satellite was pretty low. It was only two or three degrees. So we were not even sure whether we were getting any coverage, or maybe 6 hours coverage, or 9 hours coverage, etc. But it was worth a shot. So we were mulling it over at that time, in '81.

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:22:23] Barry Peters: In '82 of course the Falklands War changed everything. There was virtually no communication with the bases because it was all linked through Cable & Wireless in Stanley, and they just pulled the plug. I was linking through Cable & Wireless London and saying 'Look can you get your Bermuda station to listen out for the bases?' What we did was set up a ham rig. Dick Kressman had an amateur rig, so we put a big V-aerial right across the quadrangle of the old U-shaped BAS headquarters at Cambridge. It used to have a pond in the middle. I think it is all grass now probably. But we put an enormous V-aerial out

there, and my office was right in the middle of this U, on the upper floor, so we put it in there.

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:23:24] Barry Peters: We would sit there at maybe nine or ten o'clock at night, trying to get hold of the bases or just broadcasting to the bases, saying 'Keep broadcasting. Somebody is going to pick you up.' which they duly did. I would get home and at two o'clock in the morning, I would just be sound asleep and there would be a call from Bermuda or wherever, saying 'Oh we have just picked up Adelaide.' or 'South Georgia' (not South G because that was Argie at that time.) Adelaide or Signy [Transcriber comment: Adelaide base closed in 1977; it would probably have been Rothera, on Adelaide Island. Andy Smith] We could never get Halley, but at least if we could then relay a message back, we could then say 'Could you let Halley know.' or 'Find out if Halley is OK.' and they could come back and say 'Yes' So several nights I was up at two in the morning, talking to Bermuda, making sure everything was OK, which they were.

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:24:18] Chris Eldon Lee: *This was April '82, during the actual war itself?*

Disc 2, Track 5 [0:24:21] Barry Peters: Yes, this was during the actual conflict, and that really decided us. The aftermath of that of course was more money, and we went ahead and bought two American-built systems, Scientific Atlanta systems, through Ferranti in Aberdeen, and based them at Halley and Signy. They worked extremely well. They were very big and cumbersome by comparison with the later equipments but at least they worked and we had fax communication. We were the first people in the world, I think, to use fax as a regular form of communication from the Antarctic, which was good you know.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:25:07] Chris Eldon Lee: *That is partly because it is redundant now, isn't it?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:25:10] Barry Peters: Yes, totally. I can sit here and ring up Halley on the phone. It is how it has moved on, but it was big news at that time.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:25:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *So how did the fax work? I mean I know how faxes work but how do you get a fax into the machine in Cambridge and come out in the machine in Halley?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:25:28] Barry Peters: Well it linked through BT at Goonhilly and all the messaging was intercepted by the maritime aerial at Goonhilly (BT) and then wired up straight to us. Now in some ways it was a blessing; in other ways it was a nightmare, because of course the bases could complain about every little thing, like they had run out of cocoa or whatever, and expect you to answer them straight away. It is even worse now because even before I left I was doing emails by the yard. So it does have its down side, if you like, this instant communication. But anyway the following year, '83, we did Adelaide and where else did we do? We did two and two We also did the ships in the second year using Magnavox equipment and fax machines, and also I think they started doing data. The main reason for going to satellite, not the main reason but one of the major reasons was getting data back, from the scientists. Very shortly after fax came in, maybe only a year or so, they started

doing slow-speed data, and that has obviously got faster and faster and faster. So they can now reel off results daily if you like, or nightly, to have it sitting on scientists' desks the next morning, which is brilliant.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:27:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the turning point then was the fax machine, was it?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:27:14] Barry Peters: Yes, that was the forerunner of the data stream.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:27:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *That was the first digital communication, I guess, was it?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:27:19] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:27:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Right, and BAS was early in embracing the digital world?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:27:25] Barry Peters: Yes. Not only through me but because the scientists were clamouring for it and so they put a lot of pressure on, and I know when I went to a SCAR meeting in Germany at Bremerhaven, they were quite staggered that we were starting to use facsimile. It was not a wonderful medium because it was prone to error, but it was better than 50 words per minute teleprinter. As I say, now it is even better because you can just ring up and say 'Oi, what do you mean?'

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:28:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *What are your memories of April '82 in the BAS HQ? I hear stories of major-generals tramping up and down the corridors, because the Army arrived, didn't they, or the Services arrived, I should say?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:28:18] Barry Peters: Yes. I did not have much to do with that. That was really for the high hediums [?? Phonetic]. Ray Adie and Charles were very much involved in that, and Dick.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:28:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you aware of an atmosphere at that time?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:28:31] Barry Peters: Oh sure, yes. Everybody was on tenterhooks I think, especially with South Georgia, for example, where we knew that there had been major problems and people had been carted off. The interesting thing, as an afterthought on that one was of course Cindy Buxton and Annie were down there at that time.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:28:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *Annie? Anne Todd?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:28:52] Barry Peters: No. Annie, I forget her other name. Waters? [Transcriber comment: Annie Price. Andy Smith] Cindy being who you possibly know. Her father was Lord Buxton, Anglia Television. Cindy was film-making down there in Hound Bay I think, I can't remember where. So of course that caused a little bit of panic and consternation, but they were OK fortunately. But yes, there was an atmosphere and everybody was quite concerned, obviously about what was

happening, me especially with regard to the communications, because Ian and his wife were great friends of ours, Margaret and myself. They used to stay with us when they came back on leave to the UK, and I used to stay with them when I was in Falklands.

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:29:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *Ian? Second name?*

Disc 2, Track 6 [0:29:42] Barry Peters: Ian Stewart. Essentially that is what caused Ian's death because he had a very rough time. He was manager of Cable & Wireless by then. He was our ex Senior Engineer and he refused to give up his office to the Argentinians and he used to go in every day. They used to drag him and his wife out at three o'clock in the morning on their front lawn with a gun to the back of the neck. 'Why are you hiding all these men?' being totally stupid. Eventually he took to drink. That was very sad.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:30:26] Chris Eldon Lee: *When did he pass away?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:30:28] Barry Peters: I went to his funeral. He was buried in this country. Actually his ashes were scattered in Scotland. About ten years ago. No. Margaret might remember. I think it was probably before I retired.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:30:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *Late '90s?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:30:46] Barry Peters: Yes, mid to late '90s.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:30:48] Chris Eldon Lee: *So he was refusing to leave his office?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:30:54] Barry Peters: Sure. He said 'This is my office.' So they had an intelligence man standing at his back all the time, because the Argies took over. I mean there were all sorts of things which I know but cannot say too much about.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:31:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *OK. I understand that.*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:31:10] Barry Peters: I do not think it is particularly top secret, but they are things I was told by Ian, so it was hearsay, if you like. But he had a pretty rough time.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:31:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was he broadcasting?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:31:24] Barry Peters: No, what they did was: I don't know whether it was Ian or his engineer, who was another ex-fid and I cannot remember his name. When the Argies started using the equipment to communicate with Argentina, what they did was linked ... It was an old plugboard system and they linked all the plugs together so that it went straight into the UK. That is what I am told. So for the first month, until it got too dangerous, and they got their own communications people in, every message that was sent was straight into Brierley Hill and thence into wherever.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:16] Chris Eldon Lee: *And that was something that Ian Stewart did on his own?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:19] Barry Peters: Well that is something that Ian and his engineer cooked up. That is something they did.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:24] Chris Eldon Lee: *That was their initiative?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:26] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:27] Chris Eldon Lee: *Very useful wasn't it, I should think?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:29] Barry Peters: I would think it probably was, yes.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *He was taking a risk?*

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:32] Barry Peters: Yes, it got very dangerous I think, so they had to pull the plug on it, when the Argies got their own comms people in. It took them a while. There was one guy there who I knew, one Argentinian. A chap named Vice-Comodoro Bloomer-Reeve and I happened to be, happened to fly into BA to link to a flight to Commodoro and then to Stanley at the time that they were shoving Peron out of power, Eva Peron, and it was quite hairy. There were all these youngsters with their knuckles on the ground, and submachine guns wandering round; not nice at all. I eventually found the agent and got out of the airport. We were stuck on the tarmac in Montevideo for about four hours. Then they opened the airport to incoming flights, that is Ezeiza in BA.

Disc 2, Track 7 [0:33:35] Barry Peters: Anyway there was another lassie from Stanley there, waiting to collect her daughter who was at school in UK and she know this guy quite well. This was before the fracas, before the Argies moved in. He was one of the people that worked in Stanley, presumably covertly, sussing out all the airport and so forth. He was taking his family back to the Falklands for Christmas. He was one of the few Argentinians that I have ever known that has loved the Falklands, but he was in contact with Sadie and because we were stuck in BA. All the internal flights were clamped down because the military Junta was taking over. He said 'Don't worry. We will wait a couple of days and we will get out, because I want to be back for Christmas.' So anyway, in a couple of days, they started flying again. Whether he had any influence on it or not, I do not know.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:35:01] Barry Peters: Anyway we all flew out. We got to Commodoro and he said 'Come out for an evening meal.' He and his wife are lovely people and spoke beautiful English. As you heard, it is an English double-barrelled name if you like, Bloomer-Reeve, so he is Anglo-Argentinian. He took us to this lovely little restaurant we had never sussed out, on the beach at Commodoro; we had a super meal with him and a really nice chat. When he was there in his capacity as a senior intelligence man during the Falklands Conflict, some of the people that worked for Cable & Wireless, and a lot of others, he had shipped over to the other islands, to the West Falklands, because he said 'If I do not get you out, you are going to do something silly and you will get shot.' And he said 'I don't want that.' because he knew them all. So he said 'I am sorry, but for your own good, we will shove you off to the other islands.' So he saved a few lives. He was a reasonable guy.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:36:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *Just give me his name again, slowly.*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:36:10] Barry Peters: It was Vice-Comodoro (he was an air force commodore) Bloomer-Reeve, Carlos Bloomer-Reeve. He was one of the good guys. But the Argies were so daft. I sat down with the agent one night, a few years before that, and worked out that it was cheaper to wallpaper his flat with peso notes than it was to buy wallpaper. That was the way inflation was going, and yet they were sitting on a goldmine. Sorry we are getting off the track.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:36:42] Chris Eldon Lee: *After the Falklands War, Margaret Thatcher showed a greater interest in BAS than before.*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:36:50] Barry Peters: Yes.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:36:51] Chris Eldon Lee: *Were you aware of what was going on at Number 10? Was it obvious to you that there was going to be more money around, and were you getting any to spend?*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:37:00] Barry Peters: The answer to that is that it was filtering through that we were 'flavour of the month', and yes, we did get a lot more money to spend which enabled us to update a lot of our equipment, both HF (because we were still using HF between bases) and VHF: ground-air VHF, maritime VHF. So there was a lot of equipment and it did enable us to bring it up to a reasonable standard. So, yes, it did filter through, and hopefully it did improve the situation, and now of course you can use Iridium or whatever and have your phone in the middle of nowhere, a thousand miles from the nearest ship, base or anything else, and ring home. Whether they use Iridium on an official basis or whether people buy their own, I do not know. This is a 66 satellite system; I don't know whether you use it or have used it.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:38:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *I have heard it being used; in the Arctic actually. Let us just look at one or two of these anecdotes like your going back to the Antarctic again. There was a rather historic flight which you were connected with in some way, across the Antarctic from Adelaide to Halley and back again. You picked it up halfway.*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:38:31] Barry Peters: I picked it up at Halley with Sir Vivian Fuchs and Derek Gipps. Vivian travelled with Bert and I and Derek travelled with Dave.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:38:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *Bert was Bert Conchey and Dave was Dave Rowley?*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:38:48] Barry Peters: Yes, and it was a case of running up and down the runway, to bed it in, because it was all powder snow, soft snow, and then 'Can you two sit right at the back, so we can get this ski off the ground?' In later years we had this little joke where we used Twin Otters as Airfix kits: we sent them down whole and they sent them back in kit form, because they used to blow over and do all sorts of funny things.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:20] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me the story.*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:24] Barry Peters: What, of the flight?

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:27] Chris Eldon Lee: *Yes.*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:38] Barry Peters: Oh that was just boring.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:29] Chris Eldon Lee: *Taking off, I meant.*

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:30] Barry Peters: Well, once the aircraft has been stopped on the snow for a little while, it obviously beds in and it sticks to the snow. So you start off and you just cannot get up flying speed, so normally what you do is go up and down and back, and up the same tracks, ski tracks, to bed the snow in and get the snow fairly compact.

Disc 2, Track 8 [0:39:52] Chris Eldon Lee: *A garden roller?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:39:54] Barry Peters: Yes, that is right, and then get the C of G as far back as you can, so you can lift the front ski and get airflow under the wings, obviously, so that you can take off. So it is quite a hairy business. The worst one was Adelaide, because you just fell off the end of the cliff. You just went over the rise in the cliff and dropped towards the water before you ... Like taking off from an aircraft carrier I should think. But no, when we reached Fossil Bluff to refuel, I was walking alongside Sir Vivian, because we both landed fairly close together, and walking up to the hut for a cup of coffee, and went straight into a melt pool, wound up up to my waist in water. Fortunately it was not that deep, otherwise I would have disappeared. There was poor old Sir Vivian chatting away and there's me going 'Glug, glug, glug, squelch, squelch.' Stayed at Adelaide a little while and then picked up the ship and came home.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:40:56] Chris Eldon Lee: *That was the first?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:40:59] Barry Peters: That was the first one.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:00] Chris Eldon Lee: *Flight from one side to the other?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:01] Barry Peters: Yes. It took nine hours.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:03] Chris Eldon Lee: *And what percentage ...?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:04] Barry Peters: I think because the boss needed to get out. I think Sir Viv needed to be at home.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:09] Chris Eldon Lee: *He was in Halley?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:10] Barry Peters: He was at Halley with us, yes. He had come down on the ship. It was quicker. And that was the year that the ice fell on the ship.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:21] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me about that as well. We are talking about 1971 aren't we?* [Transcriber comment: It was 1973. Andy Smith]

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:25] Barry Peters: Yes. We had just left. We were up on base which was quite a way of course from the ship, but apparently it shoved the ship right out into the centre of the bay, pushed all the bulwarks in, rails and things, and had a lot of ice on deck which everybody busily shovelled off. So quite lucky. That was the year that we were right under the ice cliff. It was not a case of getting down on to the ice, it was a case of getting on the boat deck and walking across a gangplank on to the cliff top. So it was quite a weight of ice fell on it. It just calved off and keeled over on top of it.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:08] Chris Eldon Lee: *In 'Of Ice and Men' Fuchs reckons it was a very lucky escape.*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:11] Barry Peters: It was.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:12] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you mean?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:13] Barry Peters: Well if it had been a huge lump, it was big enough to cause the ship to go right over. If it had been a huge lump it would have just turned it straight over, and unlike a lifeboat, it is not self-righting. That would have been a major major catastrophe.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:36] Chris Eldon Lee: *The other stroke of luck was that there were no men working.*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:38] Barry Peters: No, we were quite lucky in that way, and no tractors near the edge either. No they had all disappeared. But, as I say, I was up on base and we did not hear about it really until afterwards.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:50] Chris Eldon Lee: *Tell me a bit about Sir Vivian Fuchs, because you did know him; you had to work with him quite a lot, and I am always interested to hear what people's views are. He seems to have been a man of mixed qualities.*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:43:04] Barry Peters: Very much the leader, but the thing I liked, he used to come and tell you what was going on. He would come into the logistics office and there would be David Rampton, Derek Gipps would come in, myself, Paul Whiteman, and he would sit on a desk and he would say 'Right. What are we going to do about this?' and you could all put your two pennyworth in, and he would say 'OK, this is what we are going to do.' He could have picked up your ideas or he could have decided: no, he would go his own way, but at least he let you know what was going on.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:43:46] Barry Peters: One interesting thing: when it came to buying a Twin Otter (because we had been flying Beavers and Single Otters) there was a lot of resistance, I don't know from who. FCO or whoever? But they wanted us to buy a Short Skyvan which has got no clearance at all: its wheels are right under the bottom of the body. Not good if you are hitting sastrugi because it rips the bottom out of things. So Sir Vivian was discussing that with Paul who was an aircraft engineer, and he said 'I am going to sort this out.' So off he went. About an hour later, Paul got a

phone call saying ‘Go ahead. Call de Havillands and tell them we will have a Twin Otter.’ That was the sort of influence he had.

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:44:47] Chris Eldon Lee: *Who was Paul?*

Disc 2, Track 9 [0:44:48] Barry Peters: Paul Whiteman. So, a man of very great influence.

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:44:54] Chris Eldon Lee: *Was that because he started it or because he was just that kind of guy?*

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:44:58] Barry Peters: Well he did not start it but he was just that sort of guy, and he had very good political connections; he had quite good royal connections. He used to go to dinner in Buck House, and things like this. Pretty authoritarian in a way. He was very much of the old school. You don’t drink too much, you don’t smoke too ... He used to smoke a pipe. You do not have to be scruffy to be tough. That sort of mentality. But I did not find that daunting in any way. I felt he was a good boss. At least you knew where you were with him, and the same with Dick Laws.

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:45:52] Barry Peters: I remember there was a big ruckus with NERC. NERC wanted to influence us much more than BAS wanted to be influenced and I remember I was working away one night about 9 or 10 o’clock at night, doing an indent for some satellite equipment for spares. We used to send a big spares package down, obviously, because in the days of satellite, as it is now, it is a throwaway society. If it goes wrong, you cannot repair it; it is a case of another black box goes in. It is like your mobile phone; if that goes phut, what do you do with it? Throw it away and buy another one. I was working away, doing a spares indent for two later equipments we had bought. Dick had been working. He had been trying to do a bit of research I think, on the side. He came in. We were just talking. He was saying about NERC being a bit of a pain in the backside. I said ‘Can’t we declare UDI?’ as a joke. He said ‘Well, we will give it some thought.’ That was the sort of thing you could do with Sir Viv. You could talk to him or with Dick and with Barry. Barry was another, I thought, very good boss. So I have never had any problems with them.

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:47:15] Chris Eldon Lee: *How was Fuchs with the rank and file?*

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:47:18] Barry Peters: Well I was rank and file. He was very good with the Fids, but I was an ex-Fid. Essentially he was an ex-Fid, so he knew all the dodges, all the ins and outs. Yes very fair, I never had any trouble. He could be a bit stern but fine. He did not like to see people on the ship getting sloshed, which is fair enough.

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:47:46] Chris Eldon Lee: *How did BAS change with the change from Fuchs to Dick Laws?*

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:47:54] Barry Peters: Because Fuchs had so much political clout in high places. NERC never tried to put their finger in the pie. I think when Dick took over they thought they had found their ...

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:48:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *Achilles heel?*

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:48:15] Barry Peters: Yes. I remember Dick at.... We got stuck on Bird Island one year. We had gone in for the day and 17 days later we got taken off, because it just blew and blew and blew. There were 17 of us living in Bird Island hut which was quite interesting. Dick had a tel through saying that NERC were doing this that and the other and I remember it was the only time I have ever heard him swear. So at that time there were a lot of political shenanigans going on as well between NERC and BAS, and of course, I don't know what has happened but there was rumour recently that NERC were taking over all the logistics away from Cambridge. I hope to God it is not true because that takes us back to the era when the scientists were all over the place and there was a little headquarters in wherever, in London. It brings up the same problems: communication.

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:49:17] Chris Eldon Lee: *What was your rank when you left? Have you risen through the ranks to become something important when you retired?*

Disc 2, Track 10 [0:49:22] Barry Peters: No. I started off as a Professional and Technical Officer, and then went to HPTO I think it was. Higher, and that is how I finished up. That is the only thing that rankles, because, interesting thing, when I was retiring and they wanted a replacement, and I said 'You have got to live with the guy that replaces me. You choose him. I do not want anything to do with it because it is your choice' A few days later, after the adverts had gone out, and come back in a few weeks, my boss came down the corridor and he said 'Have you seen these salaries?' and there was only one that was not earning more than £10,000 more than my post, and that really hacked me off a little bit because I had been flogging my guts out for 28 bloody years; excuse me. That is my only beef. But there you go; I am not bitter about it. It just irritated me at the time.

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:50:41] Chris Eldon Lee: *We talked, when we were having tea earlier, about loyalty, and some of your anecdotes involve still being there at ten o'clock at night and being rung at home at three o'clock in the morning, so you personally clearly had a great loyalty towards BAS. Was that unique or was that a general ...*

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:50:59] Barry Peters: Yes there is that loyalty. No, I think a lot of people did. Some people became disillusioned. Paul Whiteman I know did and for a very good reason, and I can think of one or two others who found it not to their liking. It changed quite dramatically. It got very much more hierarchical in a way in later years and I think this is why another colleague of mine left. I know John, my friend from Kyle, outside Kyle. He was, I think, fed up with it. Really you get to a point where there is no progression as well and that tends to rankle. Too late I realised that maybe I should have jumped up and down a bit sooner. OK it is hindsight and it is water under the bridge.

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:51:59] Chris Eldon Lee: *But did you remain loyal right through to the late '90s, once you were shown the adverts?*

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:52:06] Barry Peters: The last three years I found quite difficult but that did not impinge on my loyalty. That was because my boss had a habit of saying, after the event, 'Oh, by the way, I have just taken £5000 out of your budget.', which I had probably got earmarked for a piece of equipment. That annoyed me and that did cause me to swear occasionally at him, which perhaps is why I did not get any promotion, but you stick up for your corner. But no, most people I think were pretty loyal.

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:52:45] Chris Eldon Lee: *Why was there such a high degree of loyalty in the earlier years, would you say?*

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:52:48] Barry Peters: It is almost like being in the Services where your loyalty is to your mates, your friends, the people you work with, live with, go sledging with. You have got to be pretty good mates then, because if there is an accident, this is where your loyalty counts, and theirs to you.

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:53:13] Chris Eldon Lee: *So the loyalty on the ice seemed to transfer itself to Cambridge?*

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:53:17] Barry Peters: Well do not forget that many of the people that worked on the ice in the early days, virtually all of them, had worked together down South or been on different bases down South but we had all had that same experience of being Fids and that counted for quite a lot.

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:53:36] Chris Eldon Lee: *So even when those people came back to Cambridge in those later years, that survived, that loyalty?*

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:53:41] Barry Peters: Yes, and the same between the scientists and the GAs and the people like myself. Yes you would get flak when you went on to a base; you expected it. 'Why can't we do this? Why haven't you bought that?' and so forth and so on, but that was part of the game. You always get pushed; you just fend it off as best you can.

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:54:04] Chris Eldon Lee: *How do you view BAS's status today, we are looking at the autumn of 2010? Is it still on the up now or has it peaked?*

Disc 2, Track 11 [0:54:16] Barry Peters: I do not know. We used to do a lot of science for very little money. Now I have been out of it for 12 years so I cannot really speak after that, because the only thing I get is the *BAS Club Newsletter* three times a year or whatever. I very rarely attend a reunion but the one I am sorry I missed was the Halley 50, but that was for other reasons. So whether our value for money, or BAS's value for money is as good now as it was in the early days, I don't know. I think I would err on the side of saying no, it is not as good, but I have no rationale for saying that. It is just that there seems to be an awful lot of money floating round, and the science has got very much more sophisticated, but whether it is producing any more, I do not know.

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:55:31] Chris Eldon Lee: *And the reputation of BAS, do you feel that still stands up?*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:55:34] Barry Peters: I would hope that still stands up but it was extremely high.

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:55:38] Chris Eldon Lee: *So what period would you say it was highest?*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:55:42] Barry Peters: In the '60s and '70s, certainly; probably the '80s as well, amongst the scientific communities. We had very high calibre people, people like Dick Laws, Roy Piggott, Charles Swithinbank, Ray Adie; they were all top guys in their own field. I know they are all retired. Well Charles has not; I do not think Charles will ever retire. He was off to the Arctic last time I talked to him, at Roy's funeral. He was off to the Arctic then; he was going up to Spitzbergen I think and I had been up there the year before funnily enough, just on a jolly, on a cruise. It was quite fascinating. Interesting that it is very different from the Antarctic. I enjoyed it but ...

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:56:39] Chris Eldon Lee: *In what way is it different?*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:56:41] Barry Peters: The terrain is different, the scenery is different. I only visited Ny Alesund. I would love to have stayed there, I think that would be brilliant, but unfortunately... A guy I know was due in a week later. We were on a cruise ship so I could not have stayed anyway but I would like to have seen him up there.

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:57:04] Chris Eldon Lee: *What is it about the polar regions that shapes a man? Almost impossible to answer this but how do you think your life has been shaped by your time in the Antarctic?*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:57:21] Barry Peters: I think it does instil a sense of, partly a work ethic but also loyalty. I think those are the two things. Being able, in theory anyway, to turn your hand to a lot of things. I know my plumbing needs sorting out. I am quite good at rodding out drains. [laughs]

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:57:44] Chris Eldon Lee: *I was thinking about the finer aspects of humanity rather than just toiletry.*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:57:52] Barry Peters: I do not know. I think it is being able to get on with people as well. I think you learn that on base more than anything else. Even if you perhaps do not have much in common with somebody, you have to get on with them. There is no point in ... I mean the only person I have known we have had to sack was somebody who pulled a knife on someone. That did not go down very well. That was not while I was there. It was something that happened and I happened to go into the base after it had happened. I do not know. I think it is people; like still being able to talk to Ricky Chinn for example, who I never wintered with, but we seemed to get on really well. I have known him a long time. I can pick up the phone after six months and it is as if I had talked to him yesterday. The same with John, up in Kyle.

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:59:02] Chris Eldon Lee: *John Newman?*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:59:05] Barry Peters: Yes. Never wintered with him but we got to know each other. He worked in the office for BAS. He took early retirement. He had had enough. The reasons for that I do not know. I think he just got fed up with the bureaucracy. It had become much more bureaucratic. You had not got the freedom to rush off with a fistful of fivers and buy things at the last minute and then pile on to the ship with them. That is about it, I think.

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:59:34] Chris Eldon Lee: *I think so. You have done very well. Thank you very much Barry.*

Disc 2, Track 12 [0:59:36] [End of Part Two]

ENDS

Snippets:

- Paper aeroplanes flown from Gayfere House. Disc 1, Track 2 [0:08:38]
- Memories of Joe Farman. Disc 1, Track 3 [0:10:37]
- Ionospheric work at Halley Bay. Disc 1, Track 4 [0:15:35]
- Memories of Roy Piggott. Disc 1, Track 4 [0:19:27]
- The beastie and the bastard. Disc 1, Track 6 [0:26:04]
- Arriving in Stanley on New Years Day 1961. Disc 1, Track 7 [0:31:53]
- Eric Salmon, practical joker. Disc 1, Track 7 [0:33:17]
- State of the old base at Halley Bay in 1961. Disc 1, Track 8 [0:39:31]
- Not enough bolts for “Harbrow’s Folly”. Disc 1, Track 9 [0:42:46]
- False teeth down the toilet pit. Disc 1, Track 9 [0:44:28]
- Penguin in a bow tie. Disc 1, Track 11 [0:50:18]
- Work as Logistics Officer at HQ under Derek Gipps. Disc 2, Track 1 [0:03:48]
- The move to Cambridge. Disc 2, Track 3 [0:13:52]
- All Saints Passage; the SOE connection. Disc 2, Track 4 [0:16:49]
- The Falklands Conflict; Antarctic communications during and after. Disc 2, Track 5 [0:22:23]
- Change from teleprinter to fax. Disc 2, Track 5 [0:24:21]
- Vice-Comodoro Carlos Bloomer-Reeve. Disc 2, Track 7 [0:32:32]
- First Twin Otter flight to Halley Bay. Disc 2, Track 8 [0:38:31]
- Ice cliff falls on the *Bransfield*. Disc 2, Track 9 [0:41:25]
- Sir Vivian Fuchs. Disc 2, Track 9 [0:42:50]
- Working under Dick Laws. Disc 2, Track 10 [0:45:52]