MALCOLM EVANS

Edited transcript of interview with Malcolm Evans conducted at his home in Eaglemont, Victoria, Australia by Georgia Moodie on 29th March, 2012. BAS archives ad6_24_1_189_1. Transcribed by John Zerfahs on 13th December, 2018.

[0:00:00] Moodie: This is an interview with Malcolm Evans conducted by me, Georgia Moodie, on the 29th of March, 2012, at Malcolm's home in Eaglemont, Victoria, Australia. We'll be discussing Malcolm's experiences working in Antarctica under the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in the years 1955 through 1957 as a medical officer at Horseshoe Island.

[0:00:32] I guess, Malcolm, could we start off with where and when you were born?

Evans: I was born in Kent in England in 1929, just the beginning of the Great Depression. My father went to Nottingham in the Midlands, where he was an engineer. He was educated in Nottingham, and in Bedales School in southern England during the war, where we saw the German air fleets flying up the Thames and being attacked by aircraft. Later in the war was going in a train when a flying bomb was just flying alongside it, going the other way fortunately, and later we saw the much larger air fleets of the parachute assault on Arnheim, where the sky was absolutely darkened with aircraft.

[0:01:52] Evans: Then trained in medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the City of London, did my first job there and joined the Navy, where after a time in various underwater skills in submarines and the diving school, went on a survey ship, the HMS *Cook*, which is appropriate as we now live in Australia. After medical school, as I said we joined the navy as a conscript, conscript medical officer, but at Barts I came into contact with George Marsh and James Andrew, who had been in FIDS and taken part in the sledge journey down the length of the Peninsula, heard great tales from them, particularly James Andrew about that journey, how at one point the plateau became very narrow, just six feet across, and they'd actually carried the dogs across that part. So they went from Hope Bay in the north, to Stonington, and the great day when nine teams came down Sodomy Slope – there's a more politically correct name for it but I forget it (chuckles). Anyhow, from there I was released by the Navy after an interview with Dr. Fuchs as he then was, who told me I should join the Navy because the Antarctic people found it easier to get people out of the Navy than out of the Army.

[0:04:12] Evans: I was the sixth generation of naval medical officers as it happened. So then sailed south from Southampton in late December, 1955, on the Royal Research Ship *Cook*, sorry, Royal Research Ship *Shackleton*, which was a converted Baltic trader with a strengthened angled bow so that it could deal with light ice. Sailed to the Falkland Islands by way of the Cape Verde Islands, St. Paul's Rocks, Fernando de Noronha, Montevideo, and to the Falkland Islands - all very great ocean turning points from the days of sail. In the Falklands, in Port Stanley, we were kitted out with equipment of, Antarctic equipment, taken to see the Governor, and set sail again in the *Shackleton*. We stored the various bases on the

way south, giving them their supplies for the year, and eventually came to Horseshoe Island in Marguerite Bay, 68S, 68W, where we landed the stores at the base which had only been established the year before, and, as well, an extension to the base.

[0:06:10] Moodie: Malcolm, this sounds great and I'd really love to speak about all of your time at Horseshoe, but before we get onto that could you take me back to when you were studying at - St. Barts was it? - and you came in contact with two young men who'd also been to Antarctica, what had you heard about Antarctica before you spoke to them, and what made you want to go to the Antarctic after speaking to them?

Evans: Well they asked me that at the interview and I said that of course in that era everybody was imbued with the tale of Scott, not less of Amundsen and Nansen, but then everybody knew about Scott and what a very British thing it was to do [chuckle], to the *Endurance* and all that, and that I felt that I wanted to do something to tell the children about before I got fat and incapable. And that's about it.

[0:07:29] Moodie: And so had you heard much about the Antarctic before you thought of applying to go?

Evans: Well, I heard a great deal about it from James Andrew, and less from George Marsh - I had less to do with him - and then everybody knew about the Antarctic then, but no more than I said, no.

[0:08:02] Moodie: And so what stories did James Andrew tell you?

Evans: Ah, about having to carry the dogs, and the great sight of nine teams roaring down 2,000 feet of slope. Coming down it was all very well, but I heard some dreadful tales later about the troubles of getting up it, having to use two teams on the sledge. When you do that you're then faced with the problem of how do you get two teams down to bring up the next sledge. No, no more than that I don't think.

[0:08:50] Moodie: So, could you tell me a little bit about the application process of applying to be part of FIDS?

Evans: Well, I just wrote them a letter and they sent me an appointment and I went, there was no great forms to fill in, it was a matter of them getting any doctor who wanted to go, and this of course led to the first women going to the Australian bases, because there weren't enough men doctors prepared to go, which led to a great change in the Arctic scenery, the Polar scenery [chuckle].

[0:09:49] Moodie: Did you know anyone else who was applying to go when you applied to go?

Evans: No. Mind you, what I had originally applied for was to go on the Trans-Antarctic Expedition which was about that same time in the International Geophysical Year, which is where I came into contact with Fuchs, but met no other people then. Actually Dr. Fuchs took me up to Cambridge to work in the library of the Scott Polar Research Institute, where I met

John [Note: James] Wordie who, as I told you before, had been with Shackleton, and Brian Roberts who was in the Penola expedition, the British Grahamland Expedition. But no, no FIDS people at all.

[0:11:07] Moodie: And so you went to Cambridge to the Research Institute, was that before you went to the Antarctic?

Evans: Yes. The idea was to look into fields that I might be interested in researching in. Actually I only joined in other peoples' research on weights, fat thicknesses and the amount of clothing that people wore, and disturbances of sleep patterns, made no great epoch making discoveries.

[0:11:48] Moodie: So this was in preparation for your trip down there?

Evans: Yes, that's right.

[0:11:55] Moodie: Can you remember when you found out that you had been accepted to go to the Antarctic?

Evans: I think it was a foregone conclusion, they had so few applicants, 'When could I possibly start?' rather than . . . [laughs]. In fact owing to the requirements of registration I didn't go the year that they were prepared to accept me, so it really was a matter of 'When you can start?'. At that time, previous to then you didn't have to do a year in hospital after qualifying, but then you had to do at least a year in hospital under supervision before you could get a full registration.

[0:12:57] Moodie: How did your family and friends react when you told them that you would be spending a year in the Antarctic?

Evans: I think everybody thought it was a good thing to do, perhaps slightly reserved, but it was a good thing to do. It wasn't a year, the expectation was it would have been two and a half years, but in fact I found I was forgetting so much of medicine that I felt I ought to come back after one year, having been in the Navy before. You accept the usual appointment was for two years, and then half a year getting there and back. No, it was generally thought to be quite an exciting thing to do – no comment.

[0:14:03] Moodie: And were you excited by the prospect?

Evans: Oh yes, I was looking forward to it. I'd spent almost all my money buying film, very different from now where you just buy cards.

[0:14:22] Moodie: This was film to take photographs?

Evans: Yes. I had a Leica and I bought a great deal of film stock, that's unmounted film, in sort of ten metre lengths which was about ten films, and you re-filled the cartridges. In the Falklands I bought a much more expensive Leica, which did very well and I still have it, and a great deal of 16mm cine film, I'd got a virtually a cine box camera – and that did very well too really – yes.

[0:15:20] Moodie: Apart from the film can you remember making any other preparations, did you buy any books or any special clothes for your trip?

Evans: No, no special clothes but I took a box of books, medical emergency treatment type books, no reading books. I was given a Bible in a leather case that could be zipped up – I think I opened it. And I remember I wrapped them all in copies of *The Times*, complete copies of *The Times* which when I unpacked them I re-assembled them and the boys on the base read them assiduously, being the most recent papers they'd got. I remember I took them down in an ex-W.D. bombsight box from an aircraft bombsight, and an equivalent to of old sea days, that was the ditty box.

[0:17:04] Moodie: Can you remember how your emotions when you first left the U.K.?

Evans: Ah, great expectations, great excitement, and the first night we ran into a Force 10 gale, and my most of my emotions were concerned with the state of my stomach. We had to put in to Weymouth harbour in roads, and wait it out a bit, the deck cargo started shifting and as the deck cargo consisted of petrol and hydrogen cylinders it was slightly worrying, an' it was all shifting about. So we stopped and we lashed it more firmly, and set off again. As the ship came to us, came to the Survey, it had an inadequate stability so they'd had to put 132 tons of cast iron ballast very low down in the boat to make it acceptably stable. Later on, when the fuel and water were half empty off Cape Horn we ran into free-surface problems with the fluid stores because as the boat keeled one way the fluid went the same way and tended to weigh the ship down that way so very slow, very little righting force which made a very slow roll, which was a bit worrying. Mind you a very quick roll can be very worrying too.

[0:19:21] Moodie: This is the *Shackleton*?

Evans: This is the *Shackleton*, yes. I remember one time one of the people coming to me and saying 'Doc, doc, I'm afraid the ship's going to roll over'- he woke me up at midnight to tell me this, nice fellow. So I must have been feeling a little bit ill myself, because I got up and drew him a stability diagram and showed him why I thought it was going to roll over too, and he went away very silent, [Laughter], very silent.

[0:20:02] Moodie: He must have been up all night worrying.

Evans: Yes, well he'd certainly been up till then – yes, quite rational, quite rational worries. One person I remember came on the bridge, he was a person who was travelling from base to base, came onto the bridge dressed in just a loin cloth, and told the captain he'd come to take the ship over, he was very worried about the state of the bottom, the ship's bottom. He was hustled off the bridge and confined to his cabin totally dissociated, and he gradually recovered but then suddenly he was seen running off across the ice and we had to go chasing him, it was all very fraught – he came back anyhow.

[0:21:06] Moodie: So, after the *Shackleton* left the U.K., can you tell me a little bit about the journey to, I guess, Stanley in the Falklands and then on to the Antarctic, how long did it take, who were the men you were travelling with, just a little bit about the journey itself.

Evans: Well it takes about six weeks, when one thinks of flying by Jumbo these days, six weeks going anywhere is ridiculous, but it did. We were following the some of the routes of the old sailing routes and seeing some of the landmarks, Cape Verde, the island, the island is always Madeira, across the Atlantic and getting a sight on St. Paul's Rocks which are an isolated group of low lying rocks off Brazil, then to Fernando de Noronha which is again is an island off Peru [sic] with an' enormous bee-hive shaped, old-fashioned bee-hive shaped mountain, Pico del Fernando de Noronha, which is one of the great landmarks of the sailing ships, and down the coast of Brazil, Fernando de Recife to Montevideo, which is in Uruguay, and picking up stores there, and then going on the short hop to the Falklands and Stanley. The people there on the boat were, the captain was experienced in the ice, the lieutenants weren't but they were experienced officers, and in later years one of them became the captain of the survey ship. The other Survey people, I got to know a few of the people I was going to be there with, including the chap who later fell off the mountain, he helped us ex-servicemen indeed SAS helped me pack my medical stores, was the first of the people that I went to the Antarctic that I got to know, I wrote his obituary too.

[0:24:21] Moodie: Talking of packing your medical stores, back before you left the U.K. what kind of medical, what kind of things were you expecting to be doing in your work, what kind of medical treatment or care would you be expecting to be giving as the medical officer on Horseshoe Island?

Evans: Well Horseshoe Island there would have expected there to have been the results of trauma, broken limbs, cuts, the ordinary diseases that you might get but not common colds, because there's nobody coming in from outside I later discovered that sometimes there was an outbreak of colds on bases where clothing had been unpacked and the dust from the clothing had infected people. Possibility of scurvy, well there was only one possible case of that because we, following one possible touch of scurvy I was very keen on everybody having their vitamin C tablets. Indeed as I told you we had one person fall off the mountain and give himself a very common fracture of his lower leg. Getting him back was the chief part of that, the treatment of the limb was moderately routine but we had to lower him off the mountain and bring him back to base by a small dinghy in rather un-quiet seas. He was so tired at that stage that I just looked at him without any real thought of how dangerous it was.

[0:26:40] Moodie: And going back to your preparation before you left the U.K. you mentioned meeting Vivian Fuchs…

Evans: Yes

[0:26:51] Moodie: …can you tell me a little bit about your impressions of him as a man?

Evans: Fairly charismatic, great reputation because he was getting the Trans-Antarctic Expedition together. He's very pleasant - not really.

[0:27:34] Moodie: So you were on the *Shackleton*, and then you got to Stanley in the Falklands, and then after you left Stanley can you tell me about the journey from Stanley to the Antarctic?

Evans: Well the Southern Ocean is really one of the stormiest areas in the world, everybody knows how bad it can be off Cape Horn well it's as bad as that the whole way round, really very heavy seas, cold and wet, even it's cold and grey even north of the Convergence where the very cold water from the Antarctic meets the somewhat warmer water from the Atlantic. The very considerable rolling is really quite tiring by that stage I was totally inured to sea-sickness, you're always sea-sick if it blows heavily in the first five days, but by that stage it was just tiring. Going down the coast there's a lot of hard work with everybody working as wharfies, but one of the ship's crew, one of the engine room staff, got appendicitis, which led to me having to do the furthest south appendicectomy at sea at that time, as far as I know – all done on the wardroom table with a shovel bush mask and ether under the gaze of Betty Windsor, Betty Windsor who lives in that big house at the end of the Mall.

[0:29:54] Moodie: How did the appendicectomy go?

Evans: Well we both survived, and indeed he came down the next year. I don't think he was particularly worried because I'd had to do one, a member of the deck crew had appendicitis in Stanley, and with the help of the surgeon in Stanley who gave the anaesthetic I took that appendix out so at least I knew where it was.

[0:30:37] Moodie: Can you remember your first sighting of the Antarctic and what your first impressions were?

Evans: Well I suppose first sighting would have been icebergs, oh great excitement – 'Ah, actually an iceberg, wow, three!' Great excitement. Then snow covered islands and mountains, and going into the famous Deception Island which is a caldera, an exploded volcano which invaded by the sea which provides one of the best anchorages in the Antarctic. Not entirely safe because on at least one occasion the water has suddenly got very hot and chemical and steamed off all the paint on the boats. The beaches you can see steaming gently and indeed a first volcano has erupted since we were there inside the caldera, and indeed somewhere else I've walked there's been a volcano start that's at Tristan they had an eruption just where I went ashore there – it's dangerous [chuckles].

[0:32:22] Moodie: So where was the first place in the Antarctic that the *Shackleton* called in? Would it have been Deception?

Evans: Probably, yes, Deception or Port Lockroy. Port Lockroy was one of the places where the BGLE, the 1934 expedition had a base, no not a base, they went there, and they met the RRS *Discovery,* RRS is 'Royal Research Ship'. Then they went to the Argentine Islands. I vividly remember pushing barrels of fuel oil, diesel, up a steep rock slope there, absolutely exhausting. I remember in the morning before smoko I was pushing up one barrel on my own, after smoko I called the other doctor in in consultation and both of us just managed to push them up, and then after lunch we got somebody else and it took three of us to do it – it was exhausting – made a great impression.

[0:34:04] Moodie: Do you remember meeting the men on these bases who'd spent their last winter there?

Evans: Yes, but not very well, not in detail. Well at 82 I'm beginning to forget things but I don't think I ever particularly knew them particularly well. I remember thinking when we were still south when two of them got drowned one time, I couldn't really remember them but I'd met them. However there was a lot going on.

[0:34:45] Moodie: So on the way to Horseshoe Island what was a typical day like on the boat?

Evans: Well, you see I was going down as the ship's doctor, so I was in the mess with the captain and the officers so we had breakfast served to us, one then had ship's duties to do, inspecting the food storage, the sanitary facilities – the toilets – then working party and working cargo, then just a general wharfie for that, and then luncheon in the mess all served by stewards, lots of stories with the people going down and being transferred from one base to another – it was a transfer when this chap took off across the ice, I think he got settled into a familiar way of life then the idea of transferring unsettled him. There'd be all the scenery and a lot of photographs – no, not much more, no.

[0:36:53] Moodie: And so you would be stopping at several of the bases to re-supply them and then take some of the men onwards or back home or…

Evans: Either on or just in between but moving transfers between bases and sometimes transferring dogs too. There was an extensive breeding programme there and only very occasionally did we bring new blood in, and we brought one Canadian dog, a Newfoundland dog, when we came in. Generally there was a big enough genetic pool to last for some considerable time without too much in-breeding, not on any one base but by moving between bases. We picked up one dog from Argentine Islands, which was not a sledging base, where he had been just a pet and we had a great deal of trouble with him. He was a big strong dog and we were glad of his inheritance, but it took a very long time for him to settle into his place in the pecking order, and he started a lot of fights, indeed that caused really one of the funniest were incidents in the whole time, 'cos he started so many fights that we decided that we had to take whips, we didn't usually, hadn't up till then carried whips but he started so many fights we had to be able to break them up.

[0:38:48] Evans: It was a bit dangerous to go into a mass of nine or eighteen dogs, that's eighteen dogs is two teams, and try and pull them apart for fear they might turn on us. So we showed the dogs the whips and cracked them, and one very experienced dog there absolutely refused to look at it, just turned away and looked at the clouds and said 'Isn't it a nice day'. And then, I think it was probably him because he had a great sense of humour, he gave this other dog, Caesar, a nasty nip who turned round and started snapping at everybody and a tremendous fight started. But this experienced dog had backed out to the length of his trace, and was laughing all over his face, as we piled in with whips, 'Not me! I had nothing to do with it!' Dogs can lie just as well as anybody else.

[0:40:02] Moodie: So it sounds like you quite liked the dogs?

Evans: Oh well they were a great mode of exteriorisation of effort, yes, one got on very well with the dogs, one could always take a dog for a walk. It was all fellows you see, Gad!

[0:40:31] Moodie: And so how many fellows were there down at Horseshoe Island when you got there?

Evans: Ah, when we got there there were I think eight, but when I was there, there was ten so there was me, there hadn't been a doctor there before, and we took one more met man. Yes I think it was eight was there before. The year after us it was ten, but then the year after that they went back to eight and three people were carried away on the ice, so there was only five left which was it left a mark on all the people that were left. They used to go down in the next months, they used to go down to the Beacon Head which was the sort of peninsula, one end of the horseshoe of Horseshoe Island and see if they were coming back. All a bit odd, and no wonder.

[0:41:53] Moodie: Can you remember what month it was when you arrived at Horseshoe?

Evans: March probably. If it was important I could look at the diary. I think it was probably rather late in March because it had taken a time to get down there and they were itching to get out before the ice set in. We were, in fact it was a bad ice year from the sledging viewpoint, though not bad from shipping, we were on an island, about, oh, six miles off the coast of the Peninsula and it meant that we were under the constraints for sledging because we were always frightened by the possibility of the sea ice going out, justified as it proved by later events, so we didn't get as much done at that base as we had hoped to. Indeed in later years they re-occupied the base further south in Marguerite Bay, which was, from which one could get up onto the plateau, and go north or south, or indeed across it. Yes.

[0:43:45] Moodie: Can you describe what the base on Horseshoe Island looked like when you first arrived?

Evans: It was a very simple hut with a black tarpaper roof and grey walls stuck on a largely snow free ridge about a hundred yards from a small cove, which was named after the ship which had originally arrived there, the *Norsel,* and with a small ice wall facing the sea. We used to throw all rubbish, in the winter we used to throw out rubbish over that ice wall, it would land on the sea and it would get taken out in the summer when the sea ice went out. But some of the rubbish was ash which blew onto the sea wall and caused the ice to ablate in the sunshine, so in the end of two years that sea wall, that ice wall had completely melted and we had a nice little pebble beach. Nowadays one takes all one's rubbish back on the ship, and the containers have to be sent down, dumpsters have to be sent down to take old rubbish. I don't know how the Americans are going to cope with their yellow mountain outside their toilets, on McMurdo – just thought of that [chuckles]!

[0:45:55] Moodie: So there were eight, and then with the two additions there was now ten?

Evans: Ten, yes.

[0:45:59] Moodie: So can you, who were the ten and what were their positions and roles?

Evans: The leader was Derek Searle who was a surveyor, there was me was the medical officer, the met man in charge was Cecil Scotland, and his met people were Dave Chalmers, Frank Ryan, Trevor Vine-Lott, there was a builder, Cummings, Geoff Cummings [Cumming], and there was a diesel mechanic, Don Atkinson who had been working in Vickers in Barrow-in-Furness making armament for destroyers, who was a very knowledgeable person. Does that add up to ten?

[0:47:21] Moodie: Pretty close - that sounds great. When you say the met men was that, were they doing weather surveys, what was their role?

Evans: They were taking the daily, not daily, the six hourly observations, I think it was six hourly not four hourly, observations from the Stevenson's Screen, the barometric pressure, temperature, humidity the standard things and the wind velocity, we had like a windmill with an anemometer on the top of it. Later on we were doing sondes, we were sending up balloons, they're not radio sondes, they're having a bomb with, not a bomb a little instrument package called a bomb, which could radio the temperature and barometric pressure but our ones were just balloons which were followed by a theodolite and if you assumed they had a standard rate of ascent of 500 feet a minute you could work out how high they were and how fast the wind was travelling by the special theodolite, which we called the troglodyte, and a very complicated slide rule. I have that all on my film, but can't show it to you. So we had to fill the balloons in the balloon shed, take them out into the open air, release them and start the stopwatch and the theodolite observations, and follow it until it got lost. They were then, sent by the person who I didn't mention, the tenth person, Gene [phonetic] Donnelly, the South African radio operator, they were sent to Stanley and incorporated in the world weather picture, no satellites then, no, no satellites. But I think the first satellite was 1957 after we got back, and we were there when the Hungary uprising started, so we got the news of that via Gene and caused some of us to wonder whether we were going to get back.

[0:50:52] Moodie: So you, talking then about the meteorological observations, was that the main purpose of the base on Horseshoe Island, and I guess FIDS in general, what was the main purpose in your opinion?

Evans: Cynically speaking the main reason was occupation, as a demonstration of sovereignty. In the eyes of the government, from whence all money flows, the science, the met, the postal service, the magistrate service, the survey actual physical terrestrial survey, any medical research was all excuses for the existence of the bases – but that's cynical. All this is being rather put on the back burner by the Antarctic Treaty, but still nobody's backing away from occupation. Yes, that's all very cynical, but there it is.

[0:52:27] Moodie: You talked about some of the weather observations and you mentioned before about some of the medical experiments and tests, were there ones that you undertook during your time in the Antarctic?

Evans: Well, my own programme was observations on the skin thickness, which is insulation of course, on the weight which can be a response to the onset of winter and inactivity, though we were all pretty busy the whole time. And I did work on sleep patterns – I didn't discover

anything very startling, slightly surprising that in general people slept less after they'd had a sleepless night or a disturbed night. The sleep patterns were disturbed very much by the 24 hour daylight because sometimes one just sort of worked through and didn't do it, so one could end up sometimes with 72 hour days, which is, weren't worth much at the end of that. We had one chap fall off a mountain, with the comparatively minor injuries for falling off a mountain but he just broke a leg and, but I'd been awake for one night already when the call came to go back and get him off the mountain, and that took, then you were awake for the next night too, so when we got him back to base after quite an exciting time, and importing him back by sea, I then had to have a sleep before I could set to to treat him. I might have been able to carry on, but I really, decisions wouldn't have been good, and I think he needed a little time to settle down too. We had to be assisted by somebody during setting his leg, and I remember practically the whole base came and assisted me until they fainted [laughs], each one fainted in turn, so 'Hey doc, I don't feel we-e-ell'. [Laughter]. Yes, it was splendid.

[0:55:52] Moodie: So why would you have such stretches of time when you didn't sleep?

Evans: Well it was light, there was always somebody to talk to, great on gossip, marvellous views, really marvellous views. One just didn't feel tired really it was so light and bright. There was always things to do to keep one awake – there was the day to day business of work round the hut preparing for the next sledging season to keep one awake at night. The dislocation of 24 hours daylight was much greater.

[0:57:01] Moodie: Could you maybe describe then a typical day during your time at Horseshoe?

Evans: Difficult because they were all different but the, during the non-sledging days one would get up, everybody sleeping in the bunkroom. If one didn't make it to breakfast one might not get any breakfast. Great loss of porridge, though later on having had porridge at first thing when sledging, with breakfast, porridge and sledging and then vomiting with the extraordinary exertion of getting a sledge going, and I really went off porridge. Then usually out to some common enterprise like digging the dog spans, the cables that were laid out for the dogs to be chained to at intervals along. Building the *refugio*, the, great danger in the Antarctic is fire, if the hut burns and all the stores and equipment go with it, and people too very often, so we built a small rudimentary second hut with basic stores in it. Yes, went off on some common enterprise. All one's only different individual jobs like getting seals for the dogs, feeding the dogs, looking after the dogs, going out on local survey or geology trips, there were great cries at 11 or so 'SMOKO!!'

[0:59:56] Evans: We had a sack of coffee because we went down the coast of South America so coffee was cheap, sacks of coffee just sort of ladled into a chipped enamel jug and boiling water poured on. Cooking and heating of the main part of the hut was by an Esse stove, a slow combustion solid fuel stove, fuelled by Welsh anthracite, which all got snowed up so we had to go mining for that, and that's what heated the water, heated the space and did the cooking, and indeed when one felt cold one could go and sit on it and I remember one splendid occasion when somebody went to sit on it without having noticed that the lid of the

Esse had been tilted back, so the hotplate was exposed, so they sat on it for a very brief moment [laughter]. Some things are still funny, for nine people anyway – he didn't injure himself, he was a very fast mover.

[1:01:34] Moodie: Oh good [laughing].

Evans: Then I'd come and same repeated much the same in the evening. The specialists, that's to say the met people and the survey people might have done and be writing up their results or inking in their map, or cutting sections of their rocks for analysis and the polarised analysis. So, break for teatime, then the main meal of the day, usually it's pretty basic though I remember one time when we had asparagus, somebody had put the tin in the Aga [Note: or Esse!] and forgotten to sort of open the tin, and it's tinned asparagus not fresh, and it exploded and there was sort of green slime all over the kitchen, so that wasn't so good – didn't get much joy out of that asparagus. In the evening, it might be time when the recorded messages were coming in. Once a month the family could send a recorded message. No reply, we couldn't reply, we had one cable I think 112 words allowed each month, so we might be listening in the radio room to hear that. I remember one fellow had a girlfriend with the most marvellous sounding voice – I still know them both, they're in England though he went to be a professor of geology in Washington State University, Washington State not Washington District. Yes, and then in the evening we read books, played chess, then often Monopoly, I found that feelings ran too high playing 'Monotony', and didn't. Then, sort of all bunked down together.

[1:04:48] Evans: One person, a fire guard, would stay awake all night, usually one of the met people because they had to be awake to do the obs during the night. And I remember one very windy, cold and windy night the met man went out to have a look round and do the obs, as he went out he said 'If I'm not back in half an hour you better come and look for me'. Half an hour went by he didn't come out and very foolishly I did go out and look for him, and got lost too. Whiteout, you've heard about whiteout? It's a condition in daytime where it's snowing and the, and the whole world looks white, all round up and down you can see your trousers, no idea of direction or you can't even tell where the sky is, well it's even worse at night in a thick snowstorm. I had a hurricane lamp, or pressure lamp, and so I was in a sort of ball of light with total darkness outside, and fortunately after wandering round a bit I found a piece of wood embedded in the snow which I remembered where it was and how it lay, and so I sort of walked in the line from that and I was only ten yards from the corner of the hut, but I'd been totally lost there, so got all the boys out, 'He's lost, he's been missing for an hour', but I was lost for quite some time too, and we were all getting dressed and he walked in absolutely iced up completely, because by that time you see we'd started the main generator which meant we could have much more lights. We'd only got fuel enough for a comparatively short time for the transmitter to main base so the 240 volt lighting and the wireless receiver wasn't, was only on when we were transmitting, when we were sending messages when we were in contact with Stanley, or Port Lockroy, and they were quite a long way away, 1500 miles away, so the other times we had a 12 volt system run on batteries from the time when the generator was going. So the result of that was that when we started the main generator the whole place was much more brightly lit and you could see it from further

away, whereas when I went outside there was only two 12 volt lights on, then the whole hut was lit up inside, that was good, yes.

[1:08:55] Evans: On Sundays things tended to be a bit different unless there were any special jobs going on we tended to have it as a free day, and we might even go for a walk with the dog, or go, there was near to the hut there was a vertical gulley in which snow would collect and one, good snow would collect so one, and be firm and easily cut and strong, so we used to walk up, cut steps up that as an exercise, practising in step cutting. 'Cept one day I went in there and started off and found it wasn't snow it was all ice, so but I didn't worry because even if I did come off I'd just slide down that and it was straight down and out onto the soft snow beyond. I remember cutting very narrow steps just for the toe hold and listening to the ice chips going down the gulley. Well I thought there was something odd about the sound and I realised they were hitting the side that it wasn't quite straight down, that I wouldn't run out into soft snow I'd hit the rock. So continued on, going rather more carefully. In the hard snow you can using the ice axe as a brake, one can control one's descent quite well – I've fallen quite a long way once and stopped myself with an ice axe. However, I had a religious aunt who asked if Sundays was any different, 'Yes that's the day when we can go and have a drink and not worry about it', she didn't like that.

[1:11:34] Moodie: You've been talking about some of the events; in the evenings you'd spend some time reading books and time off, how did everyone get along? Did everyone get along well? Were there sometimes when you didn't get along well, and I guess if you did have problems how did people get some time alone or some privacy?

Evans: Well one could always go and walk, we had take a walk with the dog, the dogs didn't argue. In fact we were quite harmonious base, indicated by, perhaps by the fact that 30 years later fully half the base went out sailing together. Indeed it's Rymill's son, you remember Rymill of BGLEs, well son said that it was just like having a whole different set of cousins – because they all kept together and the families kept together and indeed it was with us too. The previous year things had come to fisticuffs. The doctor's in a slightly, he's in a position to be slightly advantageous, because people can come and talk to him in a semi-official way, it isn't fully, if you talk to the doctor it's not like complaining to the base leader. The people can get things off their chest. This is why I didn't play Monopoly because feelings tended to run high. We didn't play cards, 'cept that my usual sledging companion and I tried to play a very complicated Piquet with the rule book when we were sledging, but the cold got to one's fingers holding the cards so we couldn't play for very long. In fact, no I don't think anybody played cards, so that might cause trouble. We had just only a certain amount of alcohol and instead of each of us having a ration, the system was that we could have one any time we liked we just had to ask the base leader if it was ok, if we could, and he in fact always, absolutely always said 'Yes'. If the night watchman wanted a drink they had one, navy rum they had, from wicker coated stone jars, just like the navy. But anyhow we all had much the same outlook, except for one person who I think had come to the Antarctic to escape his creditors rather than for any being inspired by wanting to do it. So I shan't tell you which he was. Everybody else was very glad to be there, so they'd a great bond. Yes.

[1:16:13] Moodie: You talked a little bit about your role as a doctor being a little bit different from the base leader they could come and talk to you. Were you given any express instructions in how to care for them not only physically but psychologically?

Evans: No. No. Not a word. We had no psychotropic drugs, no psychiatric training, except very general training in the normal, part of the normal medical course. No, none at all. But as I say our base got on really quite well. The good food helps of course in the happiness of a base. We had a good base leader who allowed full discussion and weighing of opinions, but once that he made the decisions if the he reserved the option to make a final decision, then we all got on with it. He was my friend until he died in fact. We had his daughter staying with us for quite a long time here. Indeed I think we've had two of his daughters staying with us. Anyhow, and . . .

[1:18:26] Moodie Were there parts of your time and life in the Antarctic that you found particularly challenging? Was the winter tough?

Evans: No, because we were always busy, and it was never it was never completely dark all day we got a slight light even on the shortest day we got a slight lightening of the northern horizon, so it wasn't total darkness 24 hours. We weren't all that far from the Antarctic Circle, so people said 'What did you do all winter?' well we never found that true at all, there was always work. As I said earlier there was sort of the business of day to day life, which isn't easy, and preparing for the next season, the next summer. There was a time when I could have told you the weight of every single item that we took sledging. Got to add it all up and decide what we could take – can't now.

[1:20:09] Moodie: You've talked a little bit about sledging, can you tell me how many sledging expeditions you went on, and what their purpose was?

Evans: Well I mainly went with the geologist as his fieldie and total number of any duration was probably, oh, something like 10 or 15 but a lot of them were just day trips. The longest was, oh, about 80 miles total, one way, was in fact a relief expedition, a relief journey for a party from another base further north which had got stranded by the ice going out, which was a warning we took to heart, and you remember that I showed you a picture of that chap standing looking at some open sea, well he'd just got back from this relief journey where it was our equivalent of a thousand bomber raid, every single working sledge and dog and person went out, leaving four people on the base, which was a good thing we didn't all get lost. So the plan had been to go up the fjord for just something short of 40 miles and then go across the next there was a gap we'd go into the next fjord using the Norwegian term, get onto the glacier and go overland and into the next bay, where they were on the shore of which they were abandoned, were stranded. Fortunately they got back and we sort of fairly rapidly came back because there were reports that the sea ice was going out, further out in Marguerite Bay, and indeed I came back driving single handed 39 miles in one day, which is really very light because we'd left all the stores as a depot up the fjord where later on they built a refuge hut, another sub-base refuge hut where we'd left our stores depoted. Then we had left the surveyor there a little while doing a survey from where I showed you the picture

of him getting the position, with the time tick from Hawaii, WWV Hawaii [Note: an American station transmitting a coded time and date signal. The British version is MSF Rugby], and so he came back later than us and just made it because the next day the ice behind the island went too, so he was lucky. Mind you there was plenty, there was enough food for him for a while anyway, and there was always seals to get, but now it's much more, oh the base has been abandoned now and it's now a heritage site, world heritage site – gosh, and I helped build it! [Chuckles] Anyhow.

[1:25:18] Moodie: What did you like about sledging, did you like it?

Evans: Ah, it's very, very hard work. Yes I did like, yes I did like it. It's very fine working with nine sensible dogs - don't know why I liked it, it's just fun, and things happen much faster than driving. You wouldn't think so, you're only going perhaps, at the absolute utmost 20 miles an hour, but oh, gosh, things happen very fast. Like the day I was out with the geologist with the team with four sisters in it and they all went on heat the same day, it was a shambles. The dogs seemed to have other things on their minds [chuckles]. I came back quite unable to speak, but I could still shout. Yes, I'd forgotten that.

[1:26:58] Moodie: Sounds like the dogs were quite important to you, did you have a role in looking after them, or training them?

Evans: Oh yes. I was only about two percent doctor; the rest of the time I was assistant geologist, assistant surveyor, and assistant dog handler, and many other things as well. Helping other people with their chores and projects. So I was involved in hunting seal, feeding them, doctoring them, vetting them. Later on there was a vet that looked after the humans, I didn't hear what they thought about being looked after by a vet, nobody ever thought of considering what the dogs thought of being looked after by a doctor. Yes, it involved a lot of work as they got a sort of mange round their snouts which we had to go out and treat at all hours of the day and night, and blowing like anything in the dark with a pressure lamp. The dogs were glad of the attention, but it was very hard work.

[1:29:02] Moodie: Did you have any favourite dogs amongst the ones that you looked after?

Evans: Well certainly had favourite dogs and un-favourite dogs. I think my favourite dog was the dog that I told you about, that took an nip out of that pet, and then retreated to the full length of his trace and laughing all over his face. I had an un-favourite dog as well. One of the other people, one of the met people said that on the relief journey he was driving the team with this dog in it. At the end of the day he came and said, back and said 'Malcolm, I've been uncharitable about your about that dog, but everything that you say about him is true!' It was a great relief, he wasn't much good and I'd castrated him too so that solved one problem.

[1:30:26] Moodie: We're talking about dogs, and you've mentioned seals, but maybe can you tell me about some of the other encounters with animals down in the Antarctic?

Evans: Well we had very lordly visits from His and Her Majesties the Emperors; very lordly people. Whereas an ordinary penguin's beak would catch you about the knee if it got angry

with you, you dreaded where the emperor would catch you, well catch me anyway. Very curious, they came in very curious and looked at us. There were lots of seals, lovely things but we had to look at them as meat for the dogs, and us, helps with the scurvy. We went to the penguin rookery and took eggs from where there was nest with three eggs we'd take one. There were skuas which were great big brown gull like birds, very strongly built which were pure predators which were trying to steal eggs and chicks as well, and terns which would try and drive us away from their nest sites by diving on us, the skuas would attack you as well worse than maggies [Note: Australian magpies], and bigger and stronger and very nasty beaks. Occasionally people got their heads attacked by them, just like penguins, not like maggies. Very occasionally, ah yes, the only fish, we didn't fish at all but we would occasionally see fish caught in the bellies of the seals. I supposed we could of eaten them but we never got driven that far. There was very flat head like fish, notothena.

[1:33:34] Moodie: Were there whales as well?

Evans: Funny enough I was just trying to remember if we had ever seen a whale at base - no not even orcas – killer whales – or other sorts, no there weren't on the base, we saw them from the boat. I showed you a picture of one before, didn't I? Yes.

[1:34:08] Moodie: You talked before about getting messages from your family and friends, so how often was that and can you remember getting any particular messages from your family and friends?

Evans: No. They came in we had a message, they could send a message every month. Do you know I don't know how the messages were originated whether they had to go somewhere special or they could do it over the phone, isn't that extraordinary, I don't know? And we could send a cable back, wireless message cable, telegram, whatever, which would be typed up in the office in London and then sent out. No, I don't remember any special news.

[1:35:20] Moodie: How did you find that level of communication, did you miss your family and friends, was that hard?

Evans: No. In those days that was considered to be good, not with the instant communication anywhere one can get now. It was, telephone between London and Australia was very difficult, even much later. You had to book the time for a call, pretty well had to book it, and you had to pay for a three minute session and it cost £3 a minute, but that's $18 for three minutes, and the money was worth a lot more then, the reception was very bad indeed, compared to the next room like we get now. So what we got we thought was good, very good. In the war, which hadn't been very much before, people were away for years with a lot less than that. So we thought that was good.

[1:36:55] Moodie: You mentioned hearing about the Hungary uprising, can you remember what it was like when news from the outside world came in, and I guess, what were your feelings towards changes at home and in the outside world?

Evans: Slightly removed as a distant observer. So that it didn't much matter to us though the Hungarian rising there was an element of concern that this might trigger off WW3, in which

case would we have got back? Shades of Shackleton's people on Elephant Island who had the utmost difficulty getting decent sort of boats to come and pick them up off Elephant Island because of the start of World War 1. And indeed the boat that did rescue them, the *Yelcho*, was a tug, grossly inadequate, but they were glad to see it. Then you know the forecasts of total breakdown if World War 3 had started, even at that stage there was sufficient nuclear weapons about to cause a very considerable degree of dislocation, not like there are now though, or up till '89. Yes.

[1:39:04] Moodie: You talked before about the man who fell on the mountain and you had to help him, were there any other medical emergencies that you remember?

Evans: Not real emergencies. There were problems, the chap who, his general lassitude might well have been scurvy, as he got very much better with vitamin C I think it probably was. The only other time I've diagnosed scurvy was on a tanker off the North Cape in the Arctic Circle, and I wasn't even on the tanker. I ricked my back trying to pick a seal up, and had to lie in bed for two days, very minor cuts and abrasions, it's all happened so it's no use touching wood now but, we were very lucky. On the ship there was two appendicectomies one in Port Stanley where the chief medical officer of the Falklands gave an anaesthetic with a spinal, and the one in Marguerite Bay where the second officer had to give a general anaesthetic with a bottle and mask whereas I and the dentist operated and it became apparent that the dentist had no idea about the sterile barrier, kept on touching things – we'd got no gloves, got no sterile gowns, chap recovered without turning a hair. In fact both people, the one I'd done in Stanley came on the next trip with the boats. Yes.

[1:41:42] Moodie: One last question before maybe move on to your life after being in the Antarctic, what kind of person do you think was suited to life in the Antarctic?

Evans: Somebody who liked it. I am sure people like my friend Des now professor ???[incomprehensible] from the Australian Antarctic Division have great sort of psychological profiles, but I had no idea; people who want to go; it's not like people who would be good as president, you want somebody who doesn't want to be a president, you never get one, except possibly Truman. No, I don't know. Not subject to bipolar disease, one of the people on Gino Watkins' expedition to Greenland was very subject to bipolar disease, so he wouldn't have him on the, when he went to the Antarctic in the boat, they made him the home base manager. He'd had one son by a Greenlander, and then he swallowed a shotgun. He was a patient of mine in England, and something very routine not psychiatric, and so he's another of the people that I've met. So definitely not manic depressives, bipolar disease, and not schizophrenic either.

[1:44:19] Moodie: And I realise I haven't asked you about what it was like just living with all men, having no women there?

Evans: In those days it was not such a deprivation as it might appear now. If you don't see other people getting it you don't worry.

[1:44:42] Moodie: Fair enough! So, you said that when you first went to the Antarctic it was understood that it would be for two years, and so when did you come to the decision that you would stay for, well I guess it was 18 months with the travel time but one year down there?

Evans: I hadn't really thought of it till they asked me if I was quite prepared to go on for another year, and that would have been about the time – would have been about January I think, on '57, so if they'd said that to me they must have already had another recruit, Hugh Simpson, known as Sandy, who took over from me, but later on they didn't have a doctor there the year after that. He was a great climber, he climbed the mountain that I showed you a picture of across the bay. Anyhow.

[1:46:18] Moodie: And was it a difficult decision to make for you whether or not to stay?

Evans: Well, for everybody Polar they've got afterwards there's a parting of ways, so you can either go continue on beating the Polar drum like Hugh Simpson did, either in research or actual continuing exploration and one of the people who came down with me was Wally Herbert, later Sir Walter Herbert, known to the boys as 'Swally', who may be the first person to have actually got himself to the North Pole. He was preceded there by the Plaisted skidoo party, but they were airlifted part of the way. Certainly Peary didn't, and Cook may not have done. Certainly there was a great deal of argument about that, but Peary couldn't make the distances that he claimed to have maintained on walking on level roads round Washington D.C. He was just a braggart and a liar, and supported by a big paper group. I've heard it officially said that the modern history of exploration of North Greenland consisted of removing of the features that Peary had claimed to have discovered. So, what was the question?

[1:48:12] Moodie: I think I was asking you whether it was a difficult decision for you to whether to stay on or to leave?

Evans: No it wasn't, when the question was put though I hadn't thought of it before, I realised that I was really forgetting medicine, so I should come back. It's like a bucket, you pour knowledge in at the top and there's a hole at the bottom and it's dribbling out – you've got to keep working at it, so I came back, wrote up the results of my observations and then perhaps foolishly I went in to the department of experimental medicine at Cambridge doing cold research. So I lost the advantage of getting back. We re-did the Dachau experiments, do you know about the Dachau experiments where the Germans put people in, exposed people in the concentration camps to see how they could endure cold. They didn't do it very scientifically, we did it with proper controls and proper measurements and got some reasonable answers, some slightly surprising ones but it largely confirmed then put numbers on the previous results.

[1:50:08] Evans: We also went with a group of SAS people on a winter warfare course, which we had to endure as well. I remember, being fairly crafty I managed to grab a Sten gun to carry, which you could break down and put in your pack, as well as a shovel to dig holes to live in in the snow, and when it became apparent that at least I could get around on skis they took it away from me and gave me a rifle that had been encumbering one of the

non-skiers, and that I had to put up with for the rest of the time. And, anyhow we got some really quite good results from that trip, doing the cold weather adaptability trials with them, very tough people the SAS they put up with all sorts of things we did to them. Yes.

[1:51:43] Moodie: When you got back to the UK did you miss the Antarctic?

Evans: Yes, ah yes, like my friend James Andrew said, you kept on thinking about it. But there it is, you can't have two things at once, no.

[1:52:10] Moodie: What did you miss most about it?

Evans: The scenery, and a close group of friends you could rely on - and the dogs. Yes. Occasionally people brought a dog back. Vivian Fuchs brought a dog back: Jenny Darlington's husband brought a dog back – do you know about the first woman in the Antarctic? No, it's a long and involved story.

[1:53:15] Moodie: I'll read about it after.

Evans: Yeah [laughs]. Yes.

[1:53:23] Moodie: Do you think that going and spending the time that you spent there did that change, did it alter your career?

Evans: Oh yes! Oh yes, whenever I went to an interview board after that there was great delight talking about the Antarctic, it was something that they could talk about and they got interested in it, where they might have been talking about more harmful matters [chuckles]. Yes it was a great help in that point of view, and always afterwards I've found it very difficult to throw anything away, because in the Antarctic there's no re-supply before the end of the year and sometimes not then. You can't go round to the corner shop, so throw nothing away, and it's same with submarine boats, you're there, what you've got is what you've got. Yes.

[1:54:51] Moodie: And is it something that you think of often, your time there?

Evans: Not so often as I used to but yes, very often, and comparing things and, what happened in the Antarctic. Oh dear! And then thinking of how people do things in the Antarctic now – summer tourists only going down for, only going down for a short period. Gad, it's not the same!! Yep.

[1:55:38] Moodie: I guess could you give us a quick overview of your career in life since you left the Antarctic in 1957?

Evans: Yes. Well, after having been in the, written up the work at the, that I'd done at the Medical Research Council place in Holly Hill, Hampstead, went to work with the Department of Experimental Medicine re-doing the Dachau experiments, but I wasn't really suited to research, I could do it quite well but I had difficulty thinking up the questions to ask, which is the basis of it without that you can't do anything, and some people can, some people can't, and I lacked enough originality of mind. So went in, was lucky enough to get a place at

Bart's in the anaesthetic department – anaesthetics is a nice mixture of practical science. It involved tubes and gasses and valves which I'd been involved with in the Navy, and it had been very well taught as undergraduates at Bart's, indeed we were giving unsupervised anaesthetics as students – imagine that these days! Imagine that! It was a different, it really was a different world, unsupervised but not entirely unsupported, there was a trained anaesthetist nearby but we were doing it.

[1:58:01] Evans: They seemed quite glad to get somebody with a research background, and I had absolute dread of having to do exams again, but with a great deal of hard work I got through in record time. Then they changed the rules so you had to do more time over it, I think because of me because I got, most professional qualifications are in two parts, like the fellowship of surgery as well there's a primary which is anatomy, physiology and biochemistry, that sort of thing, and then are finals which is the clinical aspects. Well the idea is that you first pass the first part, and then you do the science, then you do the practical medicine or surgery or anaesthetics then sit the second part. Well I got the second part three weeks after getting the first part, so they changed the rules and you now have to do 18 months. There was also somebody there at the same time [quite irrelevant], anyhow, he was an even worse example than I was so perhaps we were both the trigger for them changing the rules. Then very early on I got a senior sub-consultant post at the Oxford Department of Anaesthetics which is a very prestigious, it was what the first professor of anaesthetics was there, but that was seconded to a nearby town where eventually I got a consultant job which is slightly different arrangements to, consultant in a hospital is much more an independent operator, very little subordinate to authority, and, but after 11 years of that I saw the light and came here, worked for the Repat [Note: now the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre] for two years, no, for thirteen months and five days, and then went part time and worked at PANCH [Note: Preston and Northcote Community Hospital] which is a very good hospital, along Bell Street, very, very thoroughly satisfying hospital with surprisingly good people, very good operating system that people worked well, it was big enough for everybody to know everybody else if only their faces, but it was big enough to provide most of the services. It's now been closed and moved out to where the people are at Epping, it's not the same – no hospitals are the same now with all the pressures on them.

[2:02:28] Evans: Medicine has got so phenomenally expensive, the burden of the song in that lecture that I gave to Tas University, 'Medicine then and now', was the expense, you saw the picture of that shovel bush mask which that and a bottle was all you needed to give an anaesthetic. Now you need an anaesthetic machine with all that data on it and you must have it, there's no you can you must or, well in America the insurance companies won't support you unless you are using all that equipment. And the various prostheses are phenomenally expensive. Medicine used to be very cheap, it wasn't very effective but it was very cheap. Now it can do a hell of a lot more, but it's just rising exponentially, and I mean exponentially, because people are living longer because they are saved by expensive means, so they live longer to live more to need more expensive means, completely upsetting the calculations of the old age pensions and the health departments. I don't see any answer, I think the socialist governments are absolutely crazy, not encouraging people to have private insurance if they

can afford it which is just a way of making people who can pay more pay more. And Hawke going out and waving his little can and saying [mimicking] 'This is all the medical insurance you need.' There's a great rush out of private medicine, so that it ended up with the public system being crowded with the crafty, the teachers and the people who thought they knew how to do the system, so they really did stand in the way of the needy, medical insurance. Anyhow, never mind.

[2:05:22] Moodie: So it's another story for another time, sounds like.

Evans: It's another story but it's a very present factor.

[2:05:32] Moodie: Malcolm, before you wrap up are there any final reflections or stories from your time in the Antarctic that you'd like to share?

Evans: Not really, it was a grand time. I remember standing on a big snow dome with the surveyor saying 'Derek, people are paying us to be here!'. Left one of a core of dependable friends, all dead now, and one senile, so I'm the survivor. And I'm two handshakes from Scott, yeah. Three handshakes from the *Porquoi Pas?* and it's captain, Charcot. His father had a hospital in Paris, and they had a joint named after him, flail knee joint due to syphilis. But the hospital was in a building that's called the Saltpetrey, where during the Revolution they used to scrape the white crustings from dried faeces to make the saltpetre for gunpowder. [interviewer laughing] I leave you with this tale! What were known as thunderboxes, you had to be licensed in medieval times because the thunder was the gunpowder, not the droppings, and manufacture of gunpowder was strictly controlled; there was no way that Guy Fawkes could have got that amount of gunpowder on his own, even if it was there. It was controlled as tightly as plutonium and for the same reason, yes.

[2:08:24] Moodie: Thank you very much, Malcolm, for speaking to us today, it was very enjoyable.

Evans: Yes, it was a pleasure on my part too, it was nice being had.

Interesting extracts:

- Stability issues with the newly acquired *Shackleton*, and a worried shipmate. [0:17:04]
- Distressed shipmate intends to take over the ship. [0:20:02]
- Appendicectomy at sea. [0:27:34]
- 'Dogs can lie just as well as anybody else'! [0:36:53]
- Setting a broken leg and the helpers faint. [0:52:27]
- Totally lost just outside the base hut. [1:04:48]
- The longest sledging trip. [1:20:09]
- 'The dogs seemed to have other things on their minds'. [1:25:18]
- Fear of possible outbreak of WW3. [1:36:55]
- Medical emergencies. [1:39:04]