

HENRY WYATT

Edited transcript of a recording of Henry Wyatt interviewed by Chris Eldon Lee on the 11th July 2013. BAS Archives AD6/24/1/229. Transcribed by Andy Smith, 23rd July 2019.

Part One

[Part 1 0:00:00] Lee: This is Henry Wyatt, interviewed by Chris Eldon Lee, on the 11th of July 2013. Henry Wyatt, Part 1.

Wyatt: Henry Turner (my mother's maiden name) Wyatt (obviously my family name), born in Hull, 25 March 1932.

[Part 1 0:00:22] Lee: So you are now how old?

Wyatt: Eighty one.

[Part 1 0:00:25] Lee: A bit about your family. Would you say your father was an educated man?

Wyatt: Well both. My mother was a physician, very early I'm sure for a woman to be in medicine. And my father was an inorganic chemist researcher for Reckitts (Reckitts & Colman) in pigments. His work was in pigments. Yes, I guess I had a pretty classical middle class upbringing for England.

[Part 1 0:00:56] Lee: So were you destined to be a doctor?

Wyatt: I don't ever remember wanting to be anything else. If that's destiny, I suppose so. I can't say why but that's it, yes. My mother was educated at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women which had been founded at the turn of the century. So somehow I got there and I was the second son of a former student. But it did have a bit of a strange juxtaposition with the Antarctic, because there I was, I think there were four men and sixty women in my class, and then in the Antarctic no women at all. It wasn't altogether a sound emotional training or experience.

[Part 1 0:01:53] Lee: What was your first awareness that the Antarctic might actually exist?

Wyatt: I don't know. The Scott/ Amundsen stuff was always there I suppose but I got interested in climbing during medical school and canoeing too but climbing in particular, and had thoughts about trying to get on an Everest group, but that never worked out. And then I found BAS and learned a bit more about Antarctica through BAS of course, well FIDS I should say, shouldn't I?

[Part 1 0:02:33] Lee: How did you find out about FIDS?

Wyatt: An advertisement in the paper. It turned out that there was a group about to go to Everest. It never went; it never happened, but I was to be the MO. So I was a bit

restless and looking for things and there I saw an advertisement, I don't know where, and replied to that, and it went on from there. That's about as I recall, yes.

[Part 1 0:03:06] Lee: Why the desire to go to the Antarctic? Were you going to get away from it all, or going specifically to get to the Antarctic?

Wyatt: Well you are touching on sensitive points there, in that there are two possible answers. One is that I was facing National Service and found that two years in Antarctica would be acceptable in lieu of National Service. It seemed to me a far better option. The other is a much more personal one, and we are now in the house of my nephew. My brother had been killed in a motorcycle accident just a year or so earlier, and over the course of a lifetime, I have found perhaps that I was running a bit away from that. It's the survivor guilt phenomenon, as I have learned. But that's a different thing, isn't it?

[Part 1 0:04:06] Lee: What was your brother's name?

Wyatt: Edward.

[Part 1 0:04:10] Lee: Was there also perhaps an element of: one doesn't know how long one's got, therefore we should make the most of things? Experiences, explorations?

Wyatt: Perhaps. It's odd that when you ask that question, when my ... – we have two sons, Barbara and I – when my elder son reached 21 years old, I had been to Switzerland and seen a wonderful picture of the North Face of the Eiger and the Mönch and the Jungfrau. And I got him a metre-square picture of the North Face for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and wrote on the back of it 'It doesn't matter how long you live. It does matter how you live.' Something like that. So I don't know. Make what you will of the answer.

[Part 1 0:05:02] Lee: But do you feel that there was an adventurous spirit inside the young Henry Wyatt?

Wyatt: Oh of course. I was lodged with a Methodist minister for all my student years and that was rather inhibiting. There was always a wish to get away at the weekends to the rocks or wherever it might be. Oh yes. I like doing the things off the usual path, you know.

[Part 1 0:05:34] Lee: So were your parents surprised when you applied to the Antarctic or horrified, mortified? How do you think they reacted?

Wyatt: They eventually ... well obviously it put them under great stress really. I think they'd wanted me to be a missionary or something like that. But eventually they ... I've got a note somewhere that they gave me their blessing and let me go. Of course like so many of us over the next couple of years, there were not a few occasions when you very nearly didn't come back, but you don't talk about those too much. There were lots of episodes where I and others should be dead but aren't.

[Part 1 0:06:25] Lee: We will come to those later on, if we may. What do you recall of the interview for this job?

Wyatt: Well not very much. There were some rather lewd backgrounds to the interview- not the interview but my behaviour, but I leave that unsaid.

[Part 1 0:06:47] Lee: Ah!

Wyatt: Oh no, we won't go there. No, it seemed a straightforward interview. I think there is such a difficulty getting physicians who will take time out of their career, that we had the easiest time of all, to get onto expeditions.

[Part 1 0:07:06] Lee: Just thinking back now, later in your life, did you feel that the Antarctic was a hiccup in your career or did it actually enhance your CV?

Wyatt: Well it in fact was an indirect way that I got my job in Canada. We will come to that later. My diaries have lots of times when I ... 'Am I going to carry on with this wandering life, or do I need to get down to something serious?' and so on. So I guess from those it must have been a bit of a hiccup, a sort of time-out doing what I was more interested in at the time. These are not easy questions to answer. They all have multi-facets, don't they?

[Part 1 0:07:52] Lee: Tell me about the ship

Wyatt: Oh God, well we were on the commissioning for the John *Biscoe*, the first voyage, and I was hopelessly seasick. Some of the builders had left an empty whisky bottle, because I had the doctor's berth in the surgery, which was fore & aft, so as the ship rolled, this whisky bottle would go: 'rrm-a-rrm-a-rrm, clunk; rrm-a-rrm-a-rrm, clunk'. I remember being so sick it took me many days before I could even take the drawer out and take the whisky bottle and throw it away. But anyway, eventually I managed to cope with the rolling ship. Much much later I found that the best way to cope was to just remain on the very edge of tipsy, day after day, and that was wonderful, but that was much later. And then I was OK. It was an interesting experience because in hindsight the skipper – it was Bill Johnson – has a pretty lonely job you know. But the doctor is a sort of slightly independent-standing person, and he seemed to be quite happy to talk to me in his daily strolls to and fro across the upper decks, and so on. So it was an interesting experience, very very much so. I had also the split between being completely accepted in the wardroom, which is never the same thing I'm sure as a Navy ship but still ..., or being accepted downstairs with the rest of us, which was a little less organised and certainly a lot more noisy. So yes, it was an interesting time, yes.

[Part 1 0:09:58] Lee: Did Captain Johnson tend to confide in you, then?

Wyatt: No. He seemed to me, in hindsight, to be a very self-contained man and a man of few words. I can't remember our conversations now, just this strange role that doctors find themselves in sometimes in life.

[Part 1 0:10:26] Lee: Even now? You are slightly apart, aren't you? Doctors are slightly apart.

Wyatt: Yes, in some of the present activity, yes, but it is not a problem anymore. But your observation is true. There is always a little bit of 'Oh he's a doctor' or nowadays 'He's a rich doctor.' All these things come in, you know, and set you a little bit aside, yes.

[Part 1 0:10:57] Lee: You made the mistake of shaving your head.

Wyatt: Oh someone else has told you that, haven't they? The time in a church manse all the student years left a lot of repressed wildness, I suppose, so in those times I did drink a bit too much. Of course that settled down but it was a release from what had been a very restricted five years, something like that. I don't remember much about the shaved head. It is probably in one of the books somewhere.

[Part 1 0:11:41] Lee: Do you remember the pain of the sunburn?

Wyatt: No, I don't remember that at all.

[Part 1 0:11:49] Lee: There was a lot of horseplay with water games on board. Does that ring any bells?

Wyatt: No, no.

[Part 1 0:11:56] Lee: Does Montevideo ring any bells?

Wyatt: Yes. 'Una coñaca' rings very much bells. I was, I suppose, innocent at the time, but in the bars there these rather gorgeous ladies were asking for another cognac and in hindsight I now know they were offering much more, but then I didn't know that and was an innocent abroad.

[Part 1 0:12:24] Lee: I gather that some of your fellow Fids did know a bit more and you had to treat them when they got back on the ship?

Wyatt: Never, no never.

[Part 1 0:12:31] Lee: Never any treatment for clap?

Wyatt: No no, in fact I am sure you know about Stuart Slessor the doctor in ...

[Part 1 0:12:41] Lee: At Stanley?

Wyatt: He was a wonderful wonderful man and whereas I was a mouthy idiot, tending to want to say there was no STD after Montevideo, he said 'No no, you are in Port Stanley where many of these ... please, you are a doctor. Stay quiet.' But no, there were no problems at all that I know about.

[Part 1 0:13:11] Lee: Tell me a bit about Port Stanley, because this was 1957?

Wyatt: Well '57 to '58. That was '56 to '57.

[Part 1 0:13:23] Lee: 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1956.

Wyatt: That's right.

[Part 1 0:12:216] Lee: *Biscoe's* maiden voyage arrival into Port Stanley?

Wyatt: Yes Port Stanley ...

[Part 1 0:13:31] Lee: What was it like then?

Wyatt: Well it was a little town. Thinking about it now, I might overlap with the time we went back to do the locum. But yes, I was an interesting little town. Doctor Slessor was really very kind to us, a very good host and had a great influence on me. Again, you are a bit wild; you are released for the first time. I think that is when the Duke of Edinburgh turned up, wasn't it? And Peter Gibbs and Dick Brown, Gerry Smith and I went off to the bay where the *Great Britain* lay – you have got this story I'm sure – to get away from the carryings on. I don't know whether the story has the significance that I think it has, but while we were there, we go to the bothy, this hut on the turf.

[Part 1 0:14:36] Lee: In Sparrow Cove?

Wyatt: Yes. Oh gosh, you know more than I do, but at any rate there was the story that we got pretty hungry and then a group of officers and secretaries, ladies from the royal ship, turned up and we pulled out of this wretched bothy looking like ragamuffins I'm sure, and went to meet them. And before we could say a word, these guys said [posh accent] 'Good morning. Do you mind if we shoot across your land?' We thought 'What do they think the Falkland Islanders are?' Anyway that was Sparrow Cove and the *Great Britain*, and this episode we have just touched on. We built rafts out of old barrels we found. You have got this story I'm sure before. But at any rate Peter and I were on one, Peter Gibbs and I, and as we set off across the cove to the *Great Britain*, it was quite clear the barrel was leaking and the thing became more and more unstable, and I decided the *Great Britain* ... I fell off and Peter then was buoyed and got to shore, but there was the sight of the *Great Britain* looming above my head there.

[Part 1 0:16:04] Wyatt: So I had to somehow climb up the side and get there and get on deck and then there was the prospect of leaping off the stern, which was quite a long way as I recall, and being worried about the cold water and not wanting to swim. So eventually Pete said "We will rescue you and came wading out. We were all stripped pretty well. So I leaped off but in the process of all this, his underpants disintegrated, and the crutch part hung down here. It was what we called the sheepskin codpiece. There is a picture in the diagram, sketched of Peter and the sheepskin codpiece which was one of those little references we could use many times late. Anyway that's not Port Stanley. It was an interesting little town, but my memories are so much more coloured by my second visit there, with Barbara and the little boy. That was interesting but I don't know if you want me to touch on that.

[Part 1 0:17:19] Lee: Let's come back to that later on.

Wyatt: Come back later on, yes.

[Part 1 0:17:21] Lee: So what was the *SS Great Britain* like? Was it in a parlous condition?

Wyatt: Well yes it seemed a ... It was a hulk as far as I could see. It was a hulk. How coincidences happen in life. As I told you earlier, before we started today, I am now interested in the Air Museum in Edmonton that is just going through a rehash because it has got a brand new curator. The curator happens to be a Polish Canadian who has just finished his PhD in history and I found out that his PhD was on the three vessels that the Brunel Brothers built, one of which was the *Great Britain*. So what a link fifty years later there was. Anyway, yes, it was a bit of a hulk. I can't remember too much about it.

[Part 1 0:18:20] Lee: Your first posting was to Detalle Island. I am wondering at what point did you realise that was where you were going to go? Were you told straight away or was it ...?

Wyatt: I don't know. I can't remember.

[Part 1 0:18:29] Lee: OK. Remind me, what was Detalle Island like at that time?

Wyatt: Well it was a new hut. It was only one year old but I think, as others must have said, it turned out to be a terrible location for a base because of the uncertainty of the sea ice in the fjord, so that the groups were really split into two: those at the refuge and those on the island. But a brand new hut and small. I don't know, you may want to ask more about it but was I happy there and the answer is: well sometimes. But no, it was not a good place for a base. Angus, did you ever manage to meet Angus?

[Part 1 0:19:24] Lee: Angus Erskine?

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 1 0:19:26] Lee: No I haven't.

Wyatt: No? He was the base commander, Navy. He had been on the British North Greenland, and I was supposed to be doing these experiments on nutrition of sledge dogs, and the usual stuff about: invent something in human physiology to justify this time out. So I think that's what must have made Angus feel I ought to spend most of my time on the island. Well it's about as big as a football field. The diaries do reflect very strongly how, as the winter wore on, depression and 'pissed off' (in modern terms), and quarrels and so on became more and more common. It is a lucky thing in memory that we remember the good times and somehow suppress the bad. But it was not a good year, not a good year.

[Part 1 0:20:36] Lee: You were wanting to get out and about, weren't you?

Wyatt: Of course, yes.

[Part 1 0:20:41] Lee: But it was the geography and Erskine's insistence that you were ...?

Wyatt: Well I did get a couple of journeys. You see the base was about an hour and a half, I think, was the journey – in the big open boat – when they did get to the base, and that was a place where 15 or 20 minutes was enough to change from flat calm to a full gale. So there were huge risks in taking the boat there. I think Bill McDowell – I wonder if you have met Bill McDowell – and I can't remember who else, did do that journey to bring in something, or whatever it was. In hindsight it was a pretty risky episode. In fact much later I have notes that SecFids banned all open boat journeys after an episode I think at another base further north. You will have heard of that, and I don't have any details but it is in the diary. And then that to relieve the base. So he did that. We tried to get down to Andreas, an island, I suppose just for a jolly, I don't know, but Frank Oliver one day did do that. That was an hour or so, pulling a sledge, and on the way back the ice was already moving and we were crossing four-foot leads, and eventually in a full gale got back to the island. At first light next morning, no ice anywhere to be seen. I have maybe got off track a little bit but you can see that ... And then there were sledge journeys to the refuge hut. I did one of those. That's when we found and talked to Denis about the two nights in the snow hole and the frost bite they got from that.

[Part 1 0:22:53] Lee: Let's go on, then.

Wyatt: Yes, I think it was John Thorne who was ... I'm not sure, who he was with. But anyway ... And then Angus and I went for a couple of three-week trips, but it wasn't enough to mitigate the effects of being stuck on that little place for so long.

[Part 1 0:23:16] Lee: So how did the frustrations manifest themselves then? Did you get noticeably depressed or grumpy?

Wyatt: Well quarrels would come up of course, and I am if anything, of a depressive bent in mind if you know. I guess I am a pessimist. But yes, you can see it in the diaries, in the middle of winter, how miserable ... 'I wish I wasn't here. Why did I come? Why did I leave such and such a girl?' And so on. And arguments between people and so on. And then all that mood changes when you begin to see a bit more sun and the prospect of relief is closer. But yes, it is very clear in reading the diaries, this effect. One of the guys was quite a drinker and the other guy was an isolationist. We don't need to attach names to these things. And a lot of stupid things happen of course: lifting off the top of the chimney when a fellow is cooking there and dropping a snow block down into the stove, which leads to an explosion and pans flying everywhere and so on. Idiot things like that. Or, as I looked the other day at the diary, dog turds appearing in the cook's water tank, which we used to obviously put snow blocks in, and someone had cut snow blocks too close to the hut, and so on. Or even this matter of the deprivation of women. I remember ... I can't imagine who found it but it turns out that rising bread, nicely warm from the oven and lightly floured, can be fashioned into a very reasonable semblance of a female torso, so that there would be a cry in the hut: 'Hey fellas, dough's ready!'; and the queue ...

[Part 1 0:25:50] Lee: What, feeling it?

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 1 0:25:52] Lee: Caressing the loaf?

Wyatt: Caressing the loaf, that's right. But still I am drifting a bit off the point, aren't I?

[Part 1 0:26:00] Lee: Oh it doesn't matter. So with that deficiency in mind, were there pinups on the walls?

Wyatt: I don't think so. I can't remember that. I do remember that it was interesting really that, for example, if you pulled any book out of the bookcase and just dropped it, where would it fall open? And that would always be at some what would nowadays be seen as a very mild description of some sexual activity. But in those days, it was treasure trove, so I think ... Of course people did not talk too much ... there was the usual vulgarity, some jokes and so on, but the real sexual tensions that people were feeling were not openly discussed. I do know that yes, they are important issues but ... I don't know whether there's anyone has made any study of this, say at the American bases at the Pole and so on, but it is a big issue.

[Part 1 0:27:15] Lee: So again, without naming names, would a Fid come and talk to you about their frustrations?

Wyatt: No, I think probably because they found me just as vulgar as everyone else. There was nothing to distinguish – just as well – nothing to distinguish me really in attitude or ...

[Part 1 0:27:33] Lee: You'd left a girl behind, had you? Not the lady you later married but an earlier ...

Wyatt: No, two or three. It was a constant worry. Yes it was a constant burden.

[Part 1 0:27:45] Lee: Why? Why a burden?

Wyatt: Well we don't need to go too deep into it but there was one girl that was particularly close but things hadn't worked out. And then another girl where things had worked out a bit better but I still didn't marry her. The confusion; you can't solve these problems remotely and again I am sure other people had similar difficulties but maybe I was a bit too vocal about them, I don't know. But anyway it was a bother, it really was. In fact that's why I grew these diaries, as very personal things which I have ... I think a lot of people would say they were sappy things, you stupid man. I am sure you have heard these feelings from other people too.

[Part 1 0:28:42] Lee: But you were, quite frequently in your diaries refer to your thoughts turning to home when you were stuck in a lie-up. I guess if you are busy, active, then you tend to forget about the emotional elastic back to Britain? But if you have nothing else to do and you are stuck in a tent for two or three days, then do they dominate your thoughts?

Wyatt: I don't remember. They came and went you know. I can't really remember to amplify. I guess in hindsight I am a bit embarrassed about it because surely I was man



enough to sort all these things out and not bother. But like so many people, I wasn't. It was a bother, yes.

[Part 1 0:29:32] Lee: But FIDS were plucking young men in their prime and actually putting them in a monastery for two years, weren't they?

Wyatt: Correct and after having been in an opposite to a monastery for five years in medicine.

[Part 1 0:29:45] Lee: A brothel?

Wyatt: Well no, not exactly, not that at all but it's curious that one misses, yes very much misses women's company but also children. Yes, when we got back I can remember the delight of seeing children again. We never think about it, walking about a little town like this. They're all there. I'm old and they are all young and there are little kiddies but yes, I missed them. I don't know whether any studies have been done. There must have been because the American bases often have a psychologist.

[Part 1 0:30:30] Lee: But it is a difficult subject to quantify, isn't it?

Wyatt: Oh I think so, yes. We just spoke before this discussion a little bit about how the basic personality affects the way one thinks and writes, and there are always the more stoical people who keep things to themselves and who, even if they have storms inside them, they are not talking about them. And then people who are perhaps like me, a bit soft, you know? And if you look at the diaries of the same events from those two people, you get a different story.

[Part 1 0:31:14] Lee: So would you recall crying in your sleeping bag or in your bunk?

Wyatt: No no, not that kind of emotional depression. I don't think at that stage in my career I could have identified any of my colleagues who had depressions. I didn't know enough about it. Like so many degrees, a degree in medicine is a licence to learn, not the end of learning. No no not that bad but a bother in the quiet time.

[Part 1 0:31:54] Lee: Were there any achievements at Detaille Island?

Wyatt: I don't know what the surveyors really achieved. There were some fine journeys, down to Base Y for example. Or Peter Gibbs and Sandy Imray ... I don't know if you ... Is Sandy Imre still alive? He was the base doctor at Y, came up from Y to W. There were some good journeys on the plateau, but I don't know whether there were any great achievements there. I suspect that Angus, as the base leader, was on the whole a bit disappointed in the place, I don't know. By the way, I have assumed that the reason it has become a heritage building and of such interest to the cruise boats out of Ushuaia, it that it is accessible more often than not. I suppose that it so; I don't know if you know.

[Part 1 0:32:57] Lee: Well that's part of the explanation; the other part of the explanation is that it is a listed building.

Wyatt: Yes but why would it be a listed building?

[Part 1 0:33:04] Lee: Because it is of historical interest so it has to be maintained.

Wyatt: Well you can tell me later why that would be because, as I say, it seemed to me to be a poor base location.

[Part 1 0:33:15] Lee: Yes, the general consensus seems to be that it was a bit of a lash-up, frankly.

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 1 0:33:20] Lee: And that everybody who went there was frustrated by that posting and very little was achieved really.

Wyatt: Yes, that's right. That would be certainly my summary of the thing.

[Part 1 0:33:32] Lee: So how do you organise or orchestrate your removal to a second base for the second year?

Wyatt: I think that it was largely because of Peter, Peter Gibbs. I can't remember which island it was on but on one of the tours down the bases I went for a swim. Then Peter was swimming too. There was some kind of feeling about self-discipline: a cold shower I guess you could say, but anyway ... So I seemed to get on with Peter and I think he must have asked, but anyway it was an enormously welcome change, my goodness me.

[Part 1 0:34:22] Lee: It was fine?

Wyatt: Oh gosh yes, that was the making of the whole experience.

[Part 1 0:34:28] Lee: Did you have to persuade FIDS to relocate you, or were you given the choice?

Wyatt: I don't remember being given the choice. I was given the option and jumped at it.

[Part 1 0:24:39] Lee: Had you known Peter Gibbs already?

Wyatt: No, only meeting him on the way down.

[Part 1 0:34:47] Lee: So why was Stonington so different?

Wyatt: I guess two reasons from my point of view. The two reasons were: first that it had this connection to the mainland at the Ramp, and second, that I at last had the opportunity to travel and to have a dog team of my own which incidentally was the straggle dogs that came in from the loss of the three men.

[Part 1 0:35:23] Lee: The Moomins?

Wyatt: Yes. Was it the Moomins? I can't remember. It was the Moomins, yes.

[Part 1 0:35:28] Lee: OK, you have brought that subject up so let me ask you about that because you were in the field when the news first broke that there was a problem with the party.

Wyatt: We were on the way back from the fall journey and we had heard that something was going on, and I thought 'Why?'. But they were pretty scrambled, the radios at the time, and as we came to the edge of the plateau, we could see black ice so we knew the ice had gone out.

[Part 1 0:35:58] Lee: Do you mean black ice or just black?

Wyatt: No. Black ice. There was no snow on the ice. So it was as I recall black ice; that's what I call it anyway. So we knew that something terrible had happened there. I think John Paisley was the base leader that year, wasn't he?

[Part 1 0:36:16] Lee: At Horseshoe, yes.

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 1 0:36:18] Lee: Go on; tell me about your decision that you and Peter Gibbs talked through to try and find these men.

Wyatt: Again the diaries have quite a lot of notes about the journey up to Base Y, and then the move from Base Y to the southern tip of Adelaide Island. Just one of the incidental coincidences is that the airstrip on Adelaide Island, all the foundation work for that, the drilling work was done by a friend's firm in Edmonton, so all these strange ... Anyway so we got to the southern tip of Adelaide, searching on the way. I think Nigel was with one sledge and Peter and me with another.

[Part 1 0:37:09] Lee: Nigel Procter?

Wyatt: Yes. And then ... It had been two or three weeks with temperatures down to – you can see the body language, can't you? – with temperatures down to minus thirty, thirty-five and lower, and I had no doubt whatsoever that there was no possibility of survival on the sea ice. But John Paisley was infinitely distressed, felt responsible and so on, so he and Peter decided to cross the bad ice, and I can't remember what the islands were. Were they Faure Islands? Yes, the Faure Islands in the centre of Marguerite Bay. They wanted me to go but (I am talking to you very frankly here) here I was, sitting thinking 'Here I am. I have already had several pretty close encounters. I cannot do this to my parents and I cannot believe for one microsecond that they could have possibly been on the Faure Islands.' So I turned down the journey and Peter and John went on alone. I think they were away three days weren't they? Something like that.

[Part 1 0:38:52] Lee: You did part of the journey I think, didn't you?

Wyatt: I can't remember.

[Part 1 0:39:00] Lee: I've got a reference to it here.

Wyatt: [Pause] Did I do part and come back? I don't remember that but at any rate, ...

[Part 1 0:39:36] Lee: Let me just ... [quoting from report] 'Henry took part in these as far as the Dion Islands and the fjords on the northern parts of Marguerite Bay but not to the Faure Islands.'

Wyatt: That may well be true. Dion is probably a pretty minor jump from Adelaide and as I say, I don't remember that detail. But they came back after three days and it has always troubled me, all my life, that maybe I should have gone. Was this a reasonable decision? Was it a cowardly act? And so on. So I am being pretty frank about these things but I guess that is what you want. I thought it was a stupid journey.

[Part 1 0:40:14] Lee: Well it had been forbidden by BAS HQ.

Wyatt: That I did not know.

[Part 1 0:40:19] Lee: Secondly, I guess they wanted you to go along because you were a medical officer and if they found these men in a poor condition, you might be able to help them. Thirdly, they had guilt too, I think, particularly John Paisley.

Wyatt: John was cut up about this whole thing. They had to resolve it for John.

[Part 1 0:40:38] Lee: They had to try and find them, even though everybody else realised it was a fairly thin hope.

Wyatt: Thin? No hope!

[Part 1 0:40:48] Lee: What made you so convinced that they wouldn't survive?

Wyatt: Because the breaking ice would have been ... They clearly had been on broken ice. They must have been wet. They can't have had camp equipment. It seemed to me impossible.

[Part 1 0:41:07] Lee: Why couldn't they have camp equipment?

Wyatt: Well that's a fair question. I'd assumed the ice pieces would be pretty broken. It was not heavy ice that they were on.

[Part 1 0:41:17] Lee: So they couldn't camp?

Wyatt: I doubt it.

[Part 1 0:41:23] Lee: The two mysteries are: I have read in Fuchs's book that John Paisley had a kind of premonition that something was going to be up. Did you ever hear him talk about that?

Wyatt: No. Peter was closer to John than I was for obvious reasons.

[Part 1 0:41:47] Lee: And what about the dog harnesses? Some say that the dog harnesses had been cut. In other words there was a conscious decision by the three men to release the dogs. What is your memory?

Wyatt: My memory is that the harnesses were frayed and tattered and I can't ... I've not thought much about it. I can't really believe they had been cut. It looked as if they had been chewed and yet it wasn't an easy chew for any dog, was it? I don't know.

[Part 1 0:42:22] Lee: How would the dogs survive and the men not? What could the dogs do?

Wyatt: Dogs can curl up into a pretty small area and their CG is very low and they live all year outside. I don't know. That's just my thoughts about it.

[Part 1 0:42:44] Lee: OK. There was quite a mood afterwards, wasn't there, when it was finally recognised that the men were lost?

Wyatt: I can't remember. No, I'm sorry I can't remember.

[Part 1 0:42:59] Lee: It's OK. Don't worry.

Wyatt: Why should I say I'm sorry? I can't remember the mood after that. No, I can't remember.

[Part 1 0:43:10] Lee: Tell me about these medical experiments you were conducting upon these poor unsuspecting Fids. There were two or three and what were you trying to achieve?

Wyatt: I guess I was trying to achieve, to justify myself to other people. Always, as I now understand, the question is whether people acclimatise to cold, or whether they adapt behaviour and don't acclimatise. There was that cold-induced diuresis. Did that change as people grew more exposed to cold?

[Part 1 0:43:57] Lee: Did they get used to it, do you mean?

Wyatt: Well, could you induce cold diuresis as easily at any time or did it become a less dramatic phenomenon with acclimatisation? Finger hunting, the vaso-constriction and then vaso-constrictor release of fingers, did that adapt? That would be looking for a local adaptation perhaps more likely. Fat thickness, body weight fat thickness, exercise, nutrition. But really these were all bits and pieces. Obviously what I know now, I would design the thing completely differently. These were all bits and pieces and somehow I managed to tag them together into a ... I didn't use a lot of the results, but into a thesis that London accepted for an MB. Two things: I guess I wasn't powerfully motivated anyway because I didn't really ... but second: they weren't necessarily popular activities.

[Part 1 0:45:21] Lee: 'Comfort in the early mornings' writes Peter Gibbs 'was decreased by Henry's need to have us lie in our bunks naked in freezing conditions for his acclimatisation studies.'

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 1 0:45:33] Lee: So you had these chaps starkers in their bunk?

Wyatt: Yes, that's right. It's a straight account but it was a question of getting a regular system for people who were in and out, getting some sort of stable condition of fluid balance beforehand – things that I would think about now, after a life's experience in medicine, were not there. It was all so random. From the perspective of the men, I'm sure that they thought it was all science and no doubt a nuisance. Other people had other programmes. I can talk about those if you want to but some were a bit better served than I was.

[Part 1 0:46:30] Lee: Tell me about a good example, if you feel yours was a bit school boyish. Were you aware of another medical research project which was ...

Wyatt: I won't give names; then it's better, isn't it? One fellow said his mother was a physician and she had sent him down a programme that would certainly be worth doing, on blood counts. Another was able to use a vest which had temperature sensors in it and therefore it was able to measure body temperature and body temperature reactions in different circumstances. So that they were able to tap into things in ways which I was not. For example the sort of situation I got into. I thought I had better learn a little bit about dental work and I went to the Dental School in London and told her what was going to happen. And the dean so kindly said 'You expect me to teach you dentistry in a week or two?' It was a pretty amateur affair at that time, yes.

[Part 1 0:47:58] Lee: Did you have a tutor who was guiding you in your medical research?

Wyatt: Otto Edholm was the big name then. There was a fellow Burton from the University of Manitoba; he had written the standard book. I am sure you have heard about it: *Men in a Cold Environment*. And yes, again in hindsight ... It was the very early days of these programmes. I think I would have liked a little better guidance than I had.

[Part 1 0:48:33] Lee: My understanding is that basically you just made up something you wanted to do, and do it. There was no selection.

Wyatt: Pretty well.

[Part 1 0:48:41] Lee: You weren't slotting into an overall programme?

Wyatt: That is correct. I think Nelson Norman has covered this a lot since, hasn't he? He made it a much more regular affair. But I know, for example, that same old, same old. When Reiner Goldsmith and Ian Hampton (who has turned into a good friend) many years later went back, it was the same old story: cold bath immersion, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. But it sounded to me that there hadn't been much advance in how to approach this problem.

[Part 1 0:49:26] Lee: On the doggy medical research, you were picking up some of these that Julian Taylor had.

Wyatt: Yes. The dog work, that went much better. It was a bit onerous – perhaps I should say odorous.

[Part 1 0:49:46] Lee: Both. What was smelly about it?

Wyatt: Well the dogs were tethered and given the different Nutrican versus pemmican blocks and on snow it was possible to find many (forgive me) shit-stained snow and put that into the bucket. So you could get, you could collect 24-hour faeces collections but then you had to melt them and mix the results and then take samples, and weigh the samples and evaporate them to dryness, and then keep the dry products in little sealed back-sealed bottles. I am not sure in hindsight whether it was a very valuable experiment, but it certainly produced a reasonable paper. But two reflections on that: One was that at Stonington, these things were being dried with hardly any cubical division, on the kitchen stoves. So it certainly wasn't a popular time when the evaporation was going on. And second, I so desperately wanted the English Customs to say 'which is that?' But they were all pre-drilled and there were no questions. It was a great disappointment.

[Part 1 0:51:15] Lee: You didn't get to say 'dogshit' in Customs?

Wyatt: No. It did show that these dogs couldn't ... A block of pure fat wouldn't have been enough calories for the work they were doing. I was always a little bit non-plussed because Neil Orr – did you talk to him?

[Part 1 0:51:43] Lee: Yes I interviewed Neil.

Wyatt: He said 'Oh all that statistics. Forget that stuff.' And wrote a paper which I am sure was just as useful as mine, but without having to go through all the bother of finding statisticians and so on. So I guess we always thought Neil had a sort of special path. He was a lucky man, was Neil.

[Part 1 0:52:16] Lee: Can you elaborate on why you think he was lucky?

Wyatt: These are all prejudices. I don't think they matter too much.

[Part 1 0:52:28] Lee: You mean a silver spoon

Wyatt: Yes, a silver spoon.

[Part 1 0:52:37] Lee: What did you prove with your dog excrement experiments and did it change BAS's approach to dog diet?

Wyatt: I do not know, never asked.

[Part 1 0:52:48] Lee: But your conclusion was that ...? Was what?

Wyatt: That a block of pure fat wouldn't be enough, and obviously fat has so many calories, so many more calories. But curiously enough, there is a group of people in Canada now who have set up an Inuit dog ... I don't know if you have come across them but at any rate they asked about it and they reproduced the paper and when I looked at it, I thought 'This is bit weird.' Again it was primitive work, wasn't it? I don't know.

[Part 1 0:53:31] Lee: Tell me about your colleagues at Stonington. Was it a happy bunch?

Wyatt: Yes, well yes. Of course there are always strains. You cannot avoid them but yes, it was much happier, obviously because of the times away. Maybe I don't need to talk about personal names but there was one person a little bit awkward but all the rest: it was wonderful. Did you have a chance to meet Keith Hoskins, the geologist? He died in a road accident some years ago. He was the light of ... It was good.

[Part 1 0:54:18] Lee: This is one of group psychology. How would the Stonington group handle the individual who wasn't quite part of the clan? Did they try and encourage him to join in with all things, or was he sent to Coventry or just left in limbo? What was the ... ?

Wyatt: I don't think I can answer that question. I know Peter asked me to go on a geology journey with him, down to Alexander Island and the Sound between.

[Part 1 0:54:50] Lee: King George VI Sound?

Wyatt: King George VI Sound, that's right. When you have to get on with each other, you get on with each other, but it isn't a matter of affinity – IT'S civilised people trying to be cooperative, you know? But yes, that was the only one where there was any real friction. Everyone else was ... It is remarkable that you can put five or six people from completely different backgrounds and different motivations without any particular effort to find a common base, and they will get on if they have a common interest. Yes, anyway ...

[Part 1 0:55:54] Lee: Let's pause, and come back and do some more after a short break.

Wyatt: Good.

[Part 1 0:56:00] Lee: Well done. Thank you.

[Part 1 0:56:00] [End of Part One]

Part Two

[Part 2 0:00:00] Lee: This is Henry Wyatt, interviewed by Chris Eldon Lee, on the 11th of July 2013. Henry Wyatt, Part 2.

[Part 2 0:00:11] Lee: John Smith sent his best wishes.



Wyatt: Oh good John. What a great man he is.

[Part 2 0:00:20] Lee: 'Whilst John was on cooking duty during a blizzard, Henry went out to collect the dog faeces from a programme he is running. Some are on seal, some on nutty. He later appeared in the kitchen covered in ice. So John asked Henry what had happened.' So what had happened?

Wyatt: Was that when John locked me out? I think it was. Was that the episode? What was said, sorry?

[Part 2 0:00:43] Lee: It's to do with a penguin encroaching into the dogs' space.

Wyatt: Oh the patent penguin pusher thing, yes. There was a sort of gully with lots of penguins in it and I made a long board on a handle and managed to push the full lot of the penguins down the gully. Is this the story ...?

[Part 2 0:01:08] Lee: It sounds an even better one. Tell me that story. Why would you want to do that?

Wyatt: Well to get them away from the dog spans because they would kill a dog<sup>1</sup>, and that would ruin their part in the experiment you see. This wasn't at Stonington; this was a Base W.

[Part 2 0:01:20] Lee: Right. Detaille.

Wyatt: But anyway the penguins went over but I lost my footing and went over too. So yes, I had a bit of a problem getting round the corner and out of the water because nobody knew where I was. But sorry that ...

[Part 2 0:01:35] Lee: That's the one, yes.

Wyatt: It is the one. That's Base W, yes. I got kind of wet. Windproof garments, when they are wet, are impervious to air of course, so I had a built-in life jacket at least for a few minutes, and then managed to get out. But yes, that was a ... I thought you were referring to some sort of good-natured or even bad-natured quarrel with John Smith, when he locked me out.

[Part 2 0:02:05] Lee: Tell me about that.

Wyatt: Inadequately ... I don't remember too much about it except that I was probably doing a snow bath or some of the silly things one does. He locked the door so there you are running round the hut, longing to get inside.

[Part 2 0:02:24] Lee: Were you fully clothed?

Wyatt: No, naked.

[Part 2 0:02:26] Lee: Why were you running round the huts naked?

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<sup>1</sup> Presumably he means the dogs would kill (and eat) the penguins.

Wyatt: Well I must have had my ponches [phonetic] on. Sort of to invigorate the soul or something idiotic like that.

[Part 2 0:02:42] Lee: Was this a dare?

Wyatt: No no. I don't remember the details. They are small points but there was always these idiot games going on.

[Part 2 0:02:53] Lee: So this was on Detaille Island; you were with John Smith?

Wyatt: That was on Detaille Island, yes.

[Part 2 0:02:56] Lee: So this would be also where the kayak ...

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 2 0:02:59] Lee: Tell me about your kayak that you built.

Wyatt: Yes, I had been ... one of the interests during student years, that was frustrated of course, was kayaking and I joined a kayak-rolling circus, demonstrating eskimo rolls around the country – some of the country anyway. So I decided to build a kayak and I did that with all lashing. No metal, screws, nails and so on. And sewed on a cover from an old canvas tarpaulin, and yes, I have got some really nice photographs of that, and I did roll it a little bit. It was a lovely boat. When you should have been dead, these things, out to a berg a quarter mile / half a mile off the island. And then the wind strengthening and the seas abeam to get back. It was of course the eskimo kayaks are pretty ... So you were quartering or an eighth, just trying to drift across in the wind, and get back of course. You get back: I am here now. These sort of things are when you get pretty close to the edge. But it was a lovely kayak. I liked it very much. The *Biscoe* was once stuck in a lead, I remember (because I took it back down to Stonington), and I got in it and had a lovely time running up and down the lead when two whales appeared, in the same lead, not 50 yards wide. I got out of it pretty quickly. They would not have harmed me I'm sure but it was nerve racking.

[Part 2 0:04:51] Lee: Did you ever genuinely fear for your life?

Wyatt: Oh yes. I am sure all of us did. Let's see. If I may just digress for a second. There is one record in the diary that I'd completely forgotten. On Detaille Island we lost a dog and we found her three days later 18 feet down a crevasse crack up on the island. We tried to get her descending head up and couldn't reach her and eventually – amazingly confident – Martin Scarffe allowed us to tie ... Have you talked to Martin? Recently? I don't know what he is doing now. Anyway he was lowered head first down the crevasse and in that way was able to stretch down and get the dog out. So I think that was quite something. Did he tell you about that?

Part 2 0:06:01] Lee: Yes.

Wyatt: What did he think about it?

[Part 2 0:06:03] Lee: I can't remember exactly but he was certainly ... It was one of those ones where you think afterwards 'What if ...'

Wyatt: Yes, of course, of course. I thought he was pretty good to get that thing out.

[Part 2 0:06:17] Lee: So that suggests that there were no real Health & Safety regulations to be obeyed in your time down there.

Wyatt: Oh no. Are there now?

[Part 2 0:06:26] Lee: Oh yes.

Wyatt: Oh there would be of course. It's a new world isn't it? Different travel and so on.

[Part 2 0:06:31] Lee: Let's go back to this kayak then. Did you ever have occasion to demonstrate rolling over in it?

Wyatt: Do you mean did I ever get tumbled and had to roll upright? No, not that I remember. No, I don't remember that happening.

[Part 2 0:06:46] Lee: You don't remember demonstrating rolls?

Wyatt: Well I might have shown the boys just in the back bay I can't remember. I might have done that in the back bay.

[Part 2 0:06:55] Lee: John Edwards thinks you gave prizes to the men on your medical programmes.

Wyatt: No.

[Part 2 0:07:01] Lee: 'A whole box of Dairy Milk for having the most fat.'

Wyatt: I don't remember anything about that.

[Part 2 0:07:08] Lee: OK, And do you remember a chap called Colonel Jim Adam?

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 2 0:07:11] Lee: What were you doing with him?

Wyatt: He was a major in the Medical Corps. He had been in the Korean War. After I came back, I worked for a year or two with the MRC because at that time the Empire was contracting and the MRC had this concept of a mobile force that could in 24 hours move to arctic or tropical climates. Would that affect them? So the question was whether cold adaptation and heat acclimatisation were mutually exclusive. So Jim was leading all that and I went with the MRC team to Aden and to Singapore with Jim as the leader. But being a civilian, I was given an equivalent rank. For example I remember on the plane to Singapore, I outranked my boss. How did you come across Jimmy Adam by the way?

[Part 2 0:08:29] Lee: It was a note from Allan Wearden. I think it was a hint from John Edwards.

Wyatt: OK. So that was all after, the time in heat acclimatisation studies for the MRC. But I was a very junior scientist.

[Part 2 0:08:46] Lee: Did the research come to any conclusions?

Wyatt: The part that I know came to conclusions was whether heat acclimatisation could be mimicked in a hot room in London, exercise in a hot room in London, or by overdressing and heavy exercise in Scotland. Or by work in Aden. And I know that the result of that was that the work in Aden was the best acclimatisation, not because it had anything to do with heat, but the guys in Aden had got through the diarrhoea and all these other things and blisters, which the other guys hadn't. Yes, that's the only bit that I remember of that.

[Part 2 0:09:38] Lee: Let's talk about some of the journeys you made. Peter Gibbs says that you seemed to spend more time in the field than anybody else at Stonington that summer. So you must have been on two or three quite substantial journeys.

Wyatt: I think that's probably true but the ones were the fall journey for the depots. I have got huge gratitude to Peter because he made the whole thing – two years – worthwhile. Anyway the fall journey to try to find the other routes east. The journey searching for the three men. The geological journey with Nigel and the summer journey with Pete Foster and Pete Gibbs. Three men, three teams. That was a wonderful experience, wonderful, but it had its very hairy moments.

[Part 2 0:10:38] Lee: Such as?

Wyatt: Well you have probably got the record. It was particularly ... when we were down at the bottom of what is now the Gibbs Glacier where it opens out onto the Filchner Shelf. So many of these events, but this particular one: I was the back of the three sledges. It was time to camp. I think you might have seen it in the journey account. Pete called a halt so we were to picket the dogs. I took my picket to the back of the sledge and gave it one blow and a three foot hole opened up, just into a black nothing, which I am standing on. Terrifying really. I gingerly stepped back from that and moved on. We all moved on a couple of hundred yards more and, believe it or not, it happened a second time. We were standing on these chasms that were hidden by covering snow. I think it happened a third time, I'm not sure, but at any rate eventually we said 'Well we must be in a field of these things, so let's just probe around and get one secure place and anchor there and camp.' But you can't possibly get closer to that than the edge, can you really? So that was a pretty close one, yes.

[Part 1 0:12:04] Wyatt: Anyway that was a wonderful journey with the two Peters. They were just great. I have a photograph that I treasure, of the three of us on Christmas Day 1958, sitting on a sledge. The day before: two things, if I may. Pete Foster, what a guy. He would say 'I am not going to eat anything for twenty four hours.' And on a sledge journey where we were losing weight and working like crazy, who would do that? No food for twenty four hours! But the day after Christmas Day

he took his jersey off, running up the glacier, on a high-sun day, and got the worst sunburn I could ever imagine; I mean torso blistered fore and aft. I am sure nowadays they would call it very very dangerous because of fluid loss. Anyway those were the journeys and those were the good times that make all the bad times disappear.

[Part 2 0:13:11] Lee: How do you mean? What is it about being out in the field on a good day that raises the soul?

Wyatt: I don't know. I like lonely places. I like the back of beyond, the comradeship, travelling into the unknown. It is so hard to describe, isn't it? But it is an enormous, I could say 'high'. I have been very interested in submarines and one of the histories of submarines has an account of a reunion of Pacific submariners, where the writer says that what meant the most to all these remnants in their lives was the time in the submarines in the Pacific War. And I thought 'You couldn't describe better, what the good times in the Antarctic mean.' Of course you married and you had a family and you have a career but still this is such a high point, probably never to be equalled really for the good times. The bad times, as I say, they are there but they are best forgotten, a lot of them.

[Part 2 0:14:40] Lee: But they come out quite a lot. Your diary here has got the autumn journey, from the 18<sup>th</sup> of April until the 6<sup>th</sup> of June '58, and of those fifty days in the field, a third of them were spent lying up, weren't they?

Wyatt: Yes, that's right, and of course it's a miserable experience but it still has that quality of – I don't know. Is it school boyish to call it adventure? It's at the front. It's special but those hours are miserable, day after day, half rations, half fuel and so on. They weren't happy times but the whole experience was good.

[Part 2 0:15:29] Lee: There were times when you feared that your tent might get blown away?

Wyatt: Well that's true for me but I don't know if Peter has told you of their camp in the Meany Fjord. Has he told you of that?

[Part 2 0:15:40] Lee: Go on.

Wyatt: He and Pete Foster wanted to go round to look at the western part of the Newny [phonetic] Trough. Actually I think Vivian Fuchs used his photograph because they camped on a little islet and a huge blizzard eroded everything around them and there was – you perhaps have seen the photograph – a tent just stuck on a sculpted ice drift. Anyway the one for us was the one down the Northwest Glacier, what I now know are katabatic winds. Obviously we've learned a lot more about them.

[Part 2 0:16:21] Lee: What was it like in the tent that day?

Wyatt: Well, just as I describe in the diary, it would be dead quiet and then one of these huge blasts of cold cold air would come battering down the glacier. You could hear it just like a train coming at us. And everything would shake like crazy and then it would be gone and you would be calm again. But as I wrote in the diary, you were

worried enough to put on all your clothes, tie yourself to the apex rope in the tent and stake down the tent with ice axes and so on. Those katabatic winds are fierce.

[Part 2 0:17:04] Lee: You did quite a lot of manhauling, involving man shifting on that particular trip. You were trying to get depots up onto the plateau?

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 2 0:17:16] Lee: And the loads were too heavy for the sledges?

Wyatt: Yes, they were big slopes: one in two and a half, something like that. The dogs couldn't possibly pull that up, so yes, that was a ... they were heavy carries. Big burden days, yes. There is impolite language, the Sodabread Slope. You have come across that, I am sure, in other contexts. In our language Sodomy Slope. To the Amphitheatre and then the lift from the Amphitheatre to the Plateau were two lots of work. Lots of work. I don't know how much we got up there – 800 lbs?, 1000 lbs? – I don't know but it was a slog getting up there.

[Part 2 0:18:07] Lee: 'Both men and dogs were quarrelsome today. How moods change with circumstance.' Is that a classic entry?

Wyatt: No, it's all true, isn't it? One always has those experiences any time in life, but yes, from hard times and grit your teeth and feeling down about it all, and then the next day is good and ... Well at least my moods change with circumstances and I am not altogether atypical as a human specimen, am I?

[Part 2 0:18:47] Lee: Yes, you had quite a lot of trouble with icing up, didn't you? Sleeping bags, anoraks, the lot? And there is quite a good description of what would happen if you banged your head against the tent on the inside and took a shower of icicles.

Wyatt: Of frost, yes. Frost crystals, that's true. It's worth just recording again that business going down what is now called my Glacier<sup>2</sup> when we lost my jersey and Peter's anorak.

[Part 2 0:19:12] Lee: Tell me about that because it must have put fear inside you.

Wyatt: Well it did. We had gone up the hill on the southeast side of it and saw it could run and down we went. 'Let's skedaddle big speed.' And my jersey and his anorak had disappeared. It was hot so you take them off. We backtracked when we'd pitched camp and found my jersey but we never found his anorak. And obviously, no windproof in those conditions is really death, or likely death. So we spent a day or two ... I think we made it out of the cover bag that the tent slipped into, hatched up something for him there, enough that he was able to protect himself from wind. But that could have been a very very serious event obviously.

[Part 2 0:20:11] Lee: Did the replacement, makeshift, anorak do the job?

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<sup>2</sup> i.e. Wyatt Glacier.

Wyatt: Oh yes. Mind you, Peter is very tough. You are right; you see the sweating reaches the frost line within the insulation of the sleeping bag or an underbag for that matter. So you get accumulating water in your sleeping gear. If you remember the people from Scott's time used reindeer bags and shook the frost out. But we couldn't exactly do that and Pete was much worse off than I was. He was sleeping on a sodden sheepskin mat and sometimes had the plane table for survey underneath him to keep him off ... It did get pretty uncomfortable.

[Part 2 0:21:07] Lee: You complain about cold feet and being damp all the time, when you were running out of primus stove fuel.

Wyatt: Yes. I can't remember that other than the notes in the diary, but yes, this business of condensation in clothing is certainly an issue.

[Part 2 0:21:26] Lee: So where had you been when you were coming home over the evening sea ice and reached the base after dark?

Wyatt: Oh that was at Detaille Island. Frank Oliver and I had gone to Andresen Island, and that was from Andresen to Base W. The others were pretty angry at us for going at all, and of course we were defensive that it was all safe and so on, but, as I say, next morning not one speck of ice could be seen, just a few bergs. That was pretty close, wasn't it?

[Part 2 0:22:12] Lee: So how did you get back?

Wyatt: Well we man-hauled back over the slightly moving ice.

[Part 2 0:22:20] Lee: In the dark?

Wyatt: We got back in the dark, yes. It's foolishness, isn't it? Foolishness often kills. There you go.

[Part 2 0:22:35] Lee: Fortune favours the brave.

Wyatt: Yes, perhaps it does.

[Part 2 0:22:42] Lee: In your case it seems to have done.

Wyatt: It did in that case, yes.

[Part 2 0:22:50] Lee: You mentioned the glacier. This is a big trip with Peter, trying to find another route across the top of the Peninsula?

Wyatt: The purpose of the journey, as I understood it, was to lay depots for a long summer journey and to look for another route down to the Filchner, because the previous route, Bill's Gulch, was heavily crevassed and wasn't popular. So that's how we came across the glacier. It was a wonderful experience because as we went down it, or was it the next day?, the wind was from the northwest, blowing drift off the west side, the sharp edge of the west side of the glacier. And the very very low sun behind it coloured it crimson or red, so that we went down this and it was exactly like flames

along the whole ridge carrying on this drift, and we called it at the time the Flaming Peaks Glacier. But yes, that was a very special time.

[Part 2 0:24:03] Lee: So tell me about the sense of achievement when you actually found you could get into this passage through the mountains.

Wyatt: There wasn't any because we were stuck there for five days. The diary shows that the first day we felt we could get away, we only got half a mile in thigh-deep snow, and felt even more desperate. It was getting a bit tight because obviously, in those days, there was no rescue, no possibility of rescue. The days roll by and you endure; you can. Over to you.

[Part 2 0:24:44] Lee: So at some point you would have reported back to FIDS HQ that you had in fact found the equivalent of the Northwest Passage.

Wyatt: I don't know about that. Peter may have done that but it never occurred to me at the time that this was a ... The diary shows this feeling of looking on at something where nobody had ever trodden. It had been photographed from the air, remember. Nobody had trodden; nobody had ever been down it and being the first humans out there, it was quite a kick, that one.

[Part 2 0:25:26] Lee: Just knowing you were the first men to do it?

Wyatt: Yes, but the reporting to Port Stanley was clearly the base leader's job and not mine.

[Part 2 0:25:40] Lee: When did you, or how did you find out they had named this glacier after you?

Wyatt: Many many years later. I think I must have been in Canada by then.

[Part 2 0:25:52] Lee: Did they write and tell you?

Wyatt: I can't remember. Maybe Peter told me, I don't know.

[Part 2 0:25:57] Lee: Most Fids found out circuitously. There is no letter system 'By the way we named it ...'?

Wyatt: No, but it was a major high. In fact I have done a lot of things in life but that is the one of which I am most ... Sorry, my marriage is the one I am most proud of but that would be next.

[Part 2 0:26:24] Lee: Well rescued, Sir.

Wyatt: Good.

[Part 2 0:26:27] Lee: Was that why you got the Polar Medal?

Wyatt: Oh I don't know; I honestly don't know. I was delighted with both. Remember Alistair Cooke?



[Part 2 0:26:43] Lee: *Letter from America?*

Wyatt: Yes. It's incidental to all this but the day we went to the Palace for the Polar, you know his bones were ... There was an awful scandal about his bones being sold in the London market for bone grafting and Lord knows what. Do you know about that? Well look it up. It was a scandal in North America. But at any rate we were walking out of the Palace – what a wonderful trip – and there was Alistair Cooke being photographed – this famous fellow. And we said to the photographers 'Do you mind just getting us on the photograph?' They said 'No.'

[Part 2 0:27:23] Lee: They refused?

Wyatt: Of course they did. But anyway no, I don't know how I learned about the Polar Medal but I was so proud of both, yes.

[Part 2 0:27:34] Lee: What brought you to South Georgia?

Wyatt: There was that ... I really was in a ... I think I must have spent my life in a bad mental condition, but at any rate I was in a bad condition when I got back, so I worked with the MRC and then ...

[Part 2 0:28:01] Lee: Let me just stop you there. You were in a bad way when you got back to Britain?

Wyatt: Oh gosh, yes.

[Part 2 0:28:07] Lee: Why? In what ...?

Wyatt: Well I didn't know what I wanted to do. I had been in wild places and had to settle down. I had been out of medicine for two years and so anyway ...

[Part 2 0:28:19] Lee: Was it a bit of a come-down, to come back?

Wyatt: Yes. Yes, it was. It was a shock, for example, since one's parents were with teeth when you left, and without teeth when you ... All these little things that you notice, but yes, it was a shock and I didn't know what I ... The point of the story is that MRC and then I think the film; I told you about. But then my father couldn't bear the fact that I was lounging around home not knowing what I wanted to do. So I eventually slipped an application into the letter box for an advertised position at the Oxford Eye Hospital, a position that had closed two weeks earlier. The application landed on the desk on the day that the man who had been offered the job declined it and on the day that his follow-up had already found a job, and one of the surgeons there (I didn't think I knew at the time) was Peter Gibbs's uncle. How lucky do you get? Anyway that was the start of the ophthalmology, and I wanted then to get my surgical qualification and I got a job in anatomy but that was six months ahead and at that point Doctor Slessor said 'Would you come and do a locum?'

[Part 2 0:30:05] Lee: Why was that? Why did you get the invitation?

Wyatt: Well I guess Doctor Slessor remembered me and I liked him very much, admired him and I suppose he thought of me. I don't know why he would ask me.

[Part 2 0:30:19] Lee: This would be how many months in Port Stanley?

Wyatt: Three months Stanley, three months South Georgia.

[Part 2 0:30:24] Lee: Oh right, and you had met Barbara, your wife, by that time?

Wyatt: Oh yes, we had a little boy by then.

[Part 2 0:30:29] Lee: So the whole family moved South?

Wyatt: Yes. It was lovely. It was just lovely. It was great.

[Part 2 0:30:38] Lee: What were you doing in Stanley?

Wyatt: Well you know it is a sort of general practice. I don't know think I am very good at it but anyway then I was the general practitioner. We lived in the big house just by the docks, on the other side from all the other houses, and we were told that the hangman's gallows had been at the place where our gate was, the front gate. Of course the wind there is always ...so the gate used to creak – quite nervous. But no, it was a very very interesting interlude. And then of course on to South Georgia which was just as interesting.

[Part 2 0:31:28] Lee: You were in Shackleton territory on South Georgia.

Wyatt: Yes indeed. Photographs of Barbara holding the little fellow in front of Shackleton's memorial cross and so on. Yes, it was a good break. The story that to me has the most significance about South Georgia was that every second day the meteorologist David (whose second name I cannot remember) and I would put on cross-country skis and go wandering off, over the pass and over the pass and over the pass. One day we were coming back and at the first col we looked in the snow and there were rats' tracks, just a few. So down into the valley and up to the next col, more and more rat tracks. So over that col and then the last col, an army of rat tracks; enormous. So we followed these all the way down to the whaling station and they didn't go into the station or onto the platform. They all went to the graveyard and disappeared under the tombs. So a strange experience. Anyway that South Georgia was good, very good.

[Part 2 0:32:55] Lee: You were living in the BAS HQ there, were you?

Wyatt: No, not BAS HQ; in King Edward Point.

[Part 2 0:33:01] Lee: All right. OK.

Wyatt: Yes, it was good.

[Part 2 0:33:06] Lee: There is very little medical work to do with young fit Fids on base, but did you find yourself doing more medical work in Falklands and South Georgia?

Wyatt: Well the Falklands perhaps, general practice kinds of work. Though what I know now, I would have done differently. Anyway but general practice and in South Georgia: healthy people, nothing to do, just enjoy yourself. Go and do an inventory of the medical equipment every few days and so on. It was time out, for sure, but an excellent experience. Barbara enjoyed it and our little boy doesn't remember it of course, until now. But yes, that was a great time.

[Part 2 0:33:57] Lee: When it became time to leave Marguerite Bay, of course you couldn't get out, could you?

Wyatt: No, I was unclear about that until I started to read the diaries. We couldn't get out. I thought we went out to the ice edge and were picked up there and changed with the crew, but the diaries show that we went up to Base Y and we were evacuated from Base Y by *Northwind* helicopters.

[Part 2 0:34:29] Lee: So you sledged to Base Y?

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 2 0:34:34] Lee: And the *Northwind* of course is the American icebreaker?

Wyatt: American icebreaker, that's right.

[Part 2 0:34:38] Lee: Was that an easy job to get you out or was it still fraught?

Wyatt: Well with helicopters it seemed kind of easy to me, and it was a good last journey. By that time the thaw was on and the ice was wet and so on and so on, but yes it was a ... Of course there was the consideration that you might not be able to get out, and so you can see in the diaries the anxiety about maybe having to stay another year.

[Part 2 0:35:10] Lee: Yes. Peter Gibbs also was concerned.

Wyatt: Oh I am sure he was. But anyway it worked out well in the end. There is the story: I think we went round to Base W after that because I think they evacuated Base W. Have you got that on record? That year I think they evacuated Base W but I have a note of one dog that escaped and simply would not be taken and he was left, unfortunately, to his fate. I don't remember that part other than what I had written in the diary.

[Part 2 0:35:48] Lee: Base W is Detaille Island?

Wyatt: Yes, that's right.

[Part 2 0:35:53] Lee: But it was abandoned and then it became a refuge hut for one winter as an inventory party sent to take an inventory of what was in the hut. And they themselves got trapped there.

Wyatt: Who? Did they? Not for a winter surely?

[Part 2 0:36:06] Lee: Yes.

Wyatt: Oh really?

[Part 2 0:36:08] Lee: I think my memory is correct of that and eventually when they came out, again they had to be airlifted out. That's why Base W was abandoned.

Wyatt: It's strange that the ice blocked the evacuation and yet part of this difficulty as a Survey base was its unstable ice. It's odd isn't it? I think I am right in that, aren't I?

[Part 2 0:36:32] Lee: Yes I am sure you are right. What's an MRC box?

Wyatt: It was a box of ... No maybe I have got it wrong. It was a new box of rations: pemmican was changed for ... Was the Nutrican the dog food or the man food? I can't remember.

[Part 2 0:36:50] Lee: Nutrican was dog food.

Wyatt: What I do remember, as we went back to Denis Goldring in the nights in the snow hole; I think they were eating dog pemmican. Did you say that?

[Part 2 0:37:01] Lee: I didn't, no.

Wyatt: Yes, it says in the diary here that they told me they'd had to eat dog pemmican. I think so. I can find it later and talk about it.

[Part 2 0:37:11] Lee: How successful was the MRC Box?

Wyatt: I don't remember. I don't remember making any reports on it. There must have been a lot of these little research projects which were sort of fill-ins and justifications and what not. What more need I say?

[Part 2 0:37:36] Lee: Something to do?

Wyatt: Yes, yes.

[Part 2 0:37:38] Lee: So how do you think ...? You are still in touch with what happens in the Antarctic lifestyle today, if only through the media. What do you regard as the biggest advances or changes in the fifty years since you were there? Fifty five years?

Wyatt: I will preface the reply with another connection between Alberta and the South. One of the principle pilots for BAS is the son of a colleague doctor, or was so. Pearson, Doug Pearson. Have you talked to him at all? Yes, you have. I'm interested

in that question because the time between our leaving Antarctica and now is greater than the time between our leaving Antarctica and Scott/ Amundsen. So we were, I think at the tail end of the ..., well obviously we were at the tail end of the classic methods: winter party, depots, dogs, and no rescue possibility. Shortly after that I remember the dogs were banned from Antarctica weren't they? And flying in became possible, and I am sure that has transformed the whole thing. Wintering parties can be relieved. Summer parties can do the work and get home. No dogs to look after; tractors are reliable and so on. So I think of our time as the end of a classic era and the beginning of massive change.

[Part 2 0:39:34] Lee: Should that be mourned or should that be praised, those changes?

Wyatt: Oh one should never mourn progress as long as it's ... I mean the facility with which work is done now is so much greater. Oh no, it is massive progress, but I am very glad that I belonged to that time. My boy now is a director of Hostelling International in Western Canada and recently, in fact in September, I am going to give a talk to them about the time in the Antarctic in relation to cruise ships. I am saying that because the talk is entitled *Antarctica before the sledge dogs left*. But that really was the big transition in my mind.

[Part 2 0:40:34] Lee: The Moomins, who were put together from the survivors or the escapees from the Base Y tragedy, how did you go about forming a dog team under your leadership, from those dogs?

Wyatt: I don't think I can answer that question. By the way I understand that they all died later in that subsequent tragedy at the Amphitheatre. Was it at the Amphitheatre?

[Part 2 0:41:03] Lee: I don't know.

Wyatt: The two men who died with all the dogs, I think they got to the Amphitheatre, either under Walton's Peak or at the Amphitheatre, but that was the team that I'd had. I don't know how to answer your question. The thing that characterises our time is that we were sort of novices, stumbling around, learning how to live in a hostile environment. And so training dogs: OK well you do it and if the dogs won't go, tie someone on the rope and send him ahead. In that sense it was classic British amateurism, wasn't it?

[Part 2 0:41:55] Lee: But were you aware of having to build a team, making it clear who was boss?

Wyatt: No. They worked together very well. The lead dog I think was Susie, such a lovely dog she was. If you have a lead dog, a bitch, and she comes on heat, you never have any difficulty because all the fellows behind her – all they can see is what they want. So no, I don't remember any particular difficulty, particularly if you were a second in line. If you are trying to run a single team, it's a bit different. But we learned on the job and did it badly or well, I don't know, but it worked.

[Part 2 0:42:40] Lee: What was this filming work you got involved in later on?

Wyatt: Let me see now. The film was *The Savage Innocents* and it starred Anthony Quinn and Peter O'Toole. They had a bunch of dogs from round the Hudson's Bay which were quarantined in Pinewood Film Studios. So they asked if I would look after the dogs and train them whatever way was necessary.

[Part 2 0:43:15] Lee: How did they know about you?

Wyatt: Well I suppose through FIDS. I have no idea.

[Part 2 0:43:20] Lee: Oh I see.

Wyatt: Again it was fiddling around when I should have been getting on with a career, but anyway that was a very very interesting time indeed. I understand that Peter ... I understand that is has later become a cult film because Nicholas Ray, James Dean's director, was in charge of it. It seems to me much later he grew more and more eccentric. So it has now become a cult film. But I don't think Peter O'Toole ever acknowledged it. I think they dubbed his voice or something<sup>3</sup>, didn't they? It's worth researching.

[Part 2 0:44:00] Lee: Did you see it?.

Wyatt: I went to the first running of it; Yes, I was invited. Nowadays I would certainly have been on the title pages because of the way films are and no doubt the unions perhaps. You would know more about that. But in those days, I wasn't anywhere on the title pages.

[Part 2 0:44:21] Lee: Was it as bad as they say it was?

Wyatt: No.

[Part 2 0:44:24] Lee: But it was a flop, wasn't it?

Wyatt: Oh it was a flop all right, but as I say, it has become a cult. It was an amazing time really. For example they had polar bears, so it was a huge set and they put the camera crew in a cage in the middle of the set and then released the polar bears into the set. There was no way the camera crew was going to get out until the polar bears came back to the ??? [incomprehensible]. All these strange things; it was an interesting time.

[Part 2 0:44:07] Lee: So this was an Arctic film then, or have they got that wrong?

Wyatt: No, it was Arctic. It was supposed to be about an Eskimo (Anthony Quinn) and I think he had killed somebody and then Peter O'Toole, the Mountie, had to go and arrest him and so on. I talk about it as a good title, and obviously it had ups and downs. I got bitten by one of the dogs and had to ...

[Part 2 0:45:33] Lee: Was that your fault or his fault?

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<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia says that O'Toole's voice was dubbed, so he demanded his name be removed from the credits.

Wyatt: Well he was hungry. Anyway I had to go through the whole anti-rabies thing and that wasn't pleasant at all. They had to wait when Peter O'Toole was bitten by the same dog and absolutely refused any sort of treatment and came to no harm. All these things were going on each day. It was good, a good time, but nothing to do with medicine.

[Part 2 0:46:07] Lee: No, or the Antarctic.

Wyatt: Well no.

[Part 2 0:46:10] Lee: Tell me a bit more about your locum on the Falkland Islands. Did Barbara settle well to the islands?

Wyatt: Oh yes. She is a very adventuresome person. She had a good time too.

[Part 2 0:46:24] Lee: Were you working in the hospital?

Wyatt: Well no. There is the hospital and then out to the settlements in the Beaver, on floats.

[Part 2 0:46:37] Lee: You were a flying doctor, then?

Wyatt: Well a little bit. All the Falkland Island doctors are flying doctors. It is a Beaver place. There are such strange things happen, and obviously legion stories. One, as an example of the kind of thing, was that a shepherd having had a good evening in his cups, was on his way back on his horse and saw a rabbit. So he ... there's the horse's head and its ears. So he rested the rifle on his horse's head like that and pulled the trigger. Of course the horse threw him off but it turned out that the poor man had fallen off, not because the horse threw him, but because he'd had a stroke. So he lay there all night on the Falkland moor and the paralysed leg from the stroke kept the blood flow fine because all the sympathetic constrictors were not working. The poor man. The other, sound, leg got vaso-constrictor and he lost his leg because of the gangrene developed. Strange stories but anyway there they are. There's lots of that sort. Not as bad as that but it was an interesting practice.

[Part 2 0:48:15] Lee: So was it possible to do the amputation job at Stanley Hospital?

Wyatt: I can't remember. No no. I can't remember how we dealt with that but I do have a photograph of the leg. The leg is still attached to the man in the photograph. I don't know what we did; I can't remember.

[Part 2 0:48:39] Lee: What other cases did you come across?

Wyatt: It wasn't so much the case but do you know the landlines, for the phone? Someone would phone from a hundred miles away for some advice, and then you would hear 'click' 'click' as each of the phones along the line had a listen. It was OK. I don't think I was a very good doctor but I was a happy one.

[Part 2 0:49:09] Lee: Were you ever called upon to use your medical skills actually in the Antarctic?

Wyatt: For the dogs, often, but for the men rarely.

[Part 2 0:49:20] Lee: The stitching of dogs, was it?

Wyatt: Well, abscesses, bites, canine obstetrics and so on. And occasionally for the men, mostly things like teeth and cuts and bruises and so on, infected cuts and whatnot, antibiotic. But no, I didn't have to use whatever medical skills I had very much there at all.

[Part 2 0:49:58] Lee: Again, the doctor being slightly apart from the base – I am thinking of Stonington now in particular where you were a happier bunny, were you excused the routine of the base?

Wyatt: Oh no no.

[Part 2 0:50:11] Lee: So you got stuck in with the rest of them?

Wyatt: This detestable gash job, cooking, baking, so you try and let the dough rise as little as possible and make bricks for bread, so it lasts a little bit longer. Those jobs were not welcomed. Bit just about Stonington, I was reading, because of this meeting, about Stonington. You have heard from the others that it was an ice tank, and I see that in thaw, water would flow in over the window sills. And even when we were doing well, you would lift a floorboard and it would be one inch below the floorboard. This clearly let water straight through. Yes there was a lot of ... No, you took part in all the activities, not that you enjoyed them but it was only fair to share. A doctor in that situation is kind of redundant in many ways. It's there for emergency. It's so famous when somebody actually has to do something. Malcolm Evans, did you ever come across him? Anyway I think he did an appendix once and of course it was a world-shattering affair. But no, you are one of the guys. It's a fair deal if you can go on the journeys, you can do the work. It's all right, yes.

[Part 2 0:51:57] Lee: Is there something that I haven't asked you about which you wanted to talk about?

Wyatt: I don't know. I was curious about whether the little, no the serious episodes had been recorded by others. There must be a myriad things that are not in the record, and if we went through we would find them, but no, not really.

[Part 2 0:52:21] Lee: Well perhaps I could just quiz you a bit more about the trip with Peter Gibbs to try and find the three men or the part of the trip you made. What's your memory of that, because were you in a tearing hurry? Was there a panic on? Was it a desperation ...

Wyatt: Oh no. It was carefully done. Camp on shore, pass a bay, unload the sledge and run right round the bay as quickly as you could, to survey the shores and so on. It was very carefully done, but of course it was Midwinter – not a pleasant time at all. For example, while Peter and John were on the way to the Faure Islands, I remember



walking (I can't remember who was with me) with a camera slung round my neck in this cold temperature, and walking into a slush patch, immersed up to my neck. Well he pulled me out with the ice axe and I ran back to the refuge hut. But the reason the story is interesting is that the camera was so cold that there had been instant freezing and not one drop of water had got into the camera, and it worked for the rest of the time there. But no, it was a well-executed careful search, as you know, my feeling in a hopeless situation. Not a good time. But others were lost, to the north of us, weren't they<sup>4</sup>?

[Part 2 0:54:08] Lee: Yes, that was a bad year.

Wyatt: Yes. Was it a bad year all round? Well as you can see, it could have happened to anybody. Even worse things could have happened. We were always entertained by the Argentinians to the north of us, because they apparently chose their heaviest, smallest roundest person, tied him on a rope and he was the crevasse tester. 'OK move now.' Well you have stimulated a lot of thoughts. But anyway that journey was well done, safely done, except for the bit we have already discussed.

[Part 2 0:55:02] Lee: Did you ever join the Antarctic Swimming Club?

Wyatt: Often. Yes, I used to. You remember I said earlier on, I don't know which island it was that I went for a swim on my own, and there was Peter swimming too. So yes, and I remember swimming at Stonington, jumping off the ice edge and not being able to climb up out, and the other guys had to come and rescue me. I don't know why one found any pleasure in this, but we continued that tradition in Canada, where at Christmas parties there was always a snow plunge. I got the job in Canada largely because of my time in the South and with the MRC, because when Canada changed to Medicare, the hospitals, instead of having a large group of indigent patients who had nowhere else to go, were all now private patients for everybody. But the Indian hospital, the Camsell Hospital, built for the care of native peoples in the North, in Edmonton, wasn't like that. It had the clientele of native peoples and the University wanted to put a clinic in there, and I had this sort of cold background and so that's how I got the job. I guess my career has always been a chance event here and there.

[Part 2 0:56:46] Lee: It sounds to me that you are lucky to be alive.

Wyatt: I think so.

[Part 2 0:56:52] Lee: I think there were a number of incidents in your Antarctic experience of a couple of years, where there could easily have been another outcome.

Wyatt: Oh very much so. To tell the truth, the most vivid in my head is at a drunken party being locked back in the surgery (nobody knows about this), locked back in the surgery to shut me up. And I climbed out of the porthole, not exactly in control of my motion, and up back over the railings to rejoin the party. That would have been a real

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<sup>4</sup> He may be referring to the deaths of Alan Sharman and Dennis Bell at Admiralty Bay the following year (1959).

ender because nobody would have known. I would have just disappeared and that would have been that.

[Part 2 0:57:37] Lee: Was this on the *Biscoe*?

Wyatt: Yes.

[Part 2 0:57:40] Lee: On which part of the journey?

Wyatt: Well early on, before I settled down.

[Part 2 0:57:44] Lee: On the way South the first time?

Wyatt: I think so, yes. But there have been many such occasions since. I don't know if people told you. I got very interested in flying. There have been flying episodes. The whole of life is a risky business, isn't it? As a matter of fact, if you don't view it as a risky business, and wrap everybody in cotton wool, I don't think they ever grow.

[Part 2 0:58:15] Lee: So how did the Antarctic change you? Did you come back a different man?

Wyatt: I don't think so. I don't know what you think but by your early twenties you are pretty set, aren't you? No I don't think it did. There are some people who see a goal and can see nothing else and go for it, and accomplish and become distinguished and so on. And there are others, and if you'll forgive me for saying say so, I suspect your life is a little bit that way. You follow your nose where it takes you and if you are lucky it becomes a good life. I think mine has been a 'follow your nose' kind of life: where opportunity came, you took it, or didn't take it and then regretted it. But yes, it's been all right.

[Part 2 0:59:15] Lee: Thank you for sharing it with me.

Wyatt: Oh thank you for asking about it. I didn't really think there would ever be an opportunity to talk about it to a third party.

[Part 2 0:59:28] [End of Part Two]

ENDS

Possible extracts:

- [Part 1 0:07:52] Noisy whisky bottle on the *Biscoe* maiden voyage.
- [Part 1 0:16:04] The sheepskin codpiece.
- [Part 1 0:37:09] Search for the missing men from Horseshoe Island.
- [Part 1 0:49:46] Dog faeces research project.
- [Part 2 0:00:43] The patent penguin pusher.
- [Part 2 0:02:59] A homemade kayak.
- [Part 2 0:10:38] Scary experience in a crevasse field.
- [Part 2 0:19:12] Loss of an anorak; a 'very serious event'.
- [Part 2 0:22:50] The Flaming Peaks Glacier.
- [Part 2 0:42:40] Filming *The Savage Innocents*.