

## ARTHUR MARTIN

Edited transcript of interview with Arthur Martin at his home in Eastleigh, Hampshire, conducted by Chris Eldon Lee on the 28th of June, 2010 (AD6/24/1/82). Transcribed by John Zerfahs on the 8th of December, 2019.

[Part 1 0:00:00] Lee: This is Arthur Martin recorded at his home in Eastleigh in Hampshire on the 20th of June, 2010, by Chris Eldon Lee. Arthur Martin, Part 1.

Martin: Arthur Martin. I was born in Bedford on the 4th of December, 1925.

[Part 1 0:00:20] Lee: So you're 84?

Martin: Coming on 85, yes.

[Part 1 0:00:26] Lee: Tell me a bit about your childhood because it is rather an irregular one wasn't it?

Martin: Well yes it was, really. Unfortunately I never knew my father; he died about four months before I was born. I was then brought up by foster parents because my mother had to work in order to keep me as a child, and that went on although I saw my mother from time to time, she was a professional cook in a very large house in Bedford. And we had a house in Bedford, a delightful house, and occasionally at the weekend I would spend with her. Then when I was nine, she died, and that really changed life again, because my father's brother was almost allocated to take me over as it were, and I went to Cambridge from there. And then spent a number of years with my aunt and uncle, and I suppose '37 really was the next stage when I began a new school in Cambridge, and the first morning of my new school my housemaster, or teacher, said 'You look to me as if you should be a Scout', he said 'We're meeting tonight, you're coming aren't you?' and with that began another chapter in my life.

[Part 1 0:02:13] Lee: The main chapter!

Martin: Well, main chapter well yes it was yes and so I became a member of the 13th Cambridge, which today, this year, celebrates its centenary, and that was a great step forward for the group.

[Part 1 0:02:30] Lee: Did you find you took to Scouting naturally?

Martin: I think so, yes, because I had no brothers or sisters and had no family as such, and there I found fellowship, and good companionship, with lots of activities that I enjoyed. Of course then I progressed through the patrol as it were to become the second or patrol leader, and then a troop leader, until the war took me away. During the early part of the war we were left really in the troop with no leaders at all, they'd all been called up and moved on, so the boys ran the thing, and the district commissioner of Cambridge occasionally came to have a look at us, and pat us on the back and said 'You're doing a good job', and he said on one occasion, he said 'You're doing very well', he said, 'keeping things going, but what are you

doing about yourselves?' – as a group, four of us, you see, and we said 'Well, we're keeping the ship going as it were', he said 'No, what are you doing yourselves to develop?' So, after he landed that little seed with us we sat down and said 'Well, what are we going to do?', and I said 'Oh well, let's be first class Scouts, and then let's be King's Scouts', and that set us two projects, and within, I suppose, two years we'd achieved that as well as keeping the troop and the pack going, we became King's Scouts, the six of us altogether at the one time, and that was a great achievement for the group.

[Part 1 0:04:22] Lee: Did this involve passing some sort of test?

Martin: Yes. It was gaining us public service badges, such as the fireman and the ambulance badge, and the pathfinder and several other useful badges which the community could use. And that, in a way I suppose, set a pattern for the rest of my life again, because these days a Queen's Scout is a recognition for young people having achieved that stage, along with the gold Edinburgh's award, and it certainly helped me in the Navy.

[Part 1 0:05:08] Lee: I was going to say I presume apart from getting these accolades there's also a certain amount of absorbing of structure and discipline and organisational skills going on.

Martin: Oh, yes, yes. I suppose leadership was constantly with us because we had youngsters to lead and promote in the programme of the troop, and that carried on, and those public service badges really cropped up in life as it went along, when you come to Lockroy I will explain how one actually did, and what a surprise it was. And the cook's badge too, [Lee: Was very useful!], very useful, it was, absolutely.

[Part 1 0:06:07] Lee: So you found yourself being elevated into the Navy in 1944?

Martin: Well, yes, on His Majesty's request [laughter]. I went to HMS *Royal Arthur* which was Butlin's Skegness holiday camp, spent about six weeks there I suppose doing tests and kitting out, then on to HMS *Duke*, in Great Malvern, where I was square bashing, and lots of dental treatment, and eventually through to Portsmouth for a spot of training there, and then to a transit camp while the doodlebugs were flying over Portsmouth and dropping, to join a ship out to South East Asia, all happened in 1944. And I joined my ship, HMS *Victorious*, the aircraft carrier, in December 1944 [sic] and stayed with her until 1946, yes '46.

[Part 1 0:07:27] Lee: But you were whilst you were actually on board ship were you still involved in Scouting in some way or other?

Martin: Yes, well I was always looking for it; in Ceylon I was looking for connections ashore, and when I got on the ship I found there was nothing there, and I found that the ship's padre was an old Cambridge undergraduate of the college I actually worked at in my younger days, and so we struck a relationship there, and I found one or two others and I encouraged them and myself to form a deep sea Rover crew, so we had a deep sea Rover crew on board the ship. But again, in Australia, in Sydney, I found the headquarters of the New South Wales branch, and they had a very good club underneath their main building which was available to service people to drop in in the evening for tea, coffee, and to be picked up by

local Scouters and either taken to a meeting or taken home for food and hospitality and that worked very well and I got mixed up with their national training ground and helped them, took some training whilst we were in the Pacific on a theory basis for studies, and I still keep in touch with one or two of them, who climbed up the ladder in Scouting in Australia. So yes, that carried on right through them.

[Part 1 0:09:14] Lee: When the war, when you were discharged from the Navy in '46 Scouting called you didn't it really, am I using the right word here, 'calling' would you regard . . . ?

Martin: I went back to my aunts and uncles and the obvious thing I was looking where my old Scout group was. They needed a Scout leader and I fell into it of course, and I did two years with them as a leader and then my district commissioner said 'I've got a job for you, Arthur', he said 'I want to start a group in Trumpington, just outside Cambridge. He said 'Will you go and do that?' so I said 'Yes', and started a pack, and then a troop. Eventually found some local leaders, and then he said 'I've got another job for you' [laughing] he said 'The Sea Scout troop is falling to pieces and wants a leader and I know you've been in the Navy, I think there's a job for you'. So I moved from the 1st Cambridge to rescue them, and it was really during that period that an advert came in to the Scouting magazine which advertised a place for, right, a purser on the *Discovery*, Scott's *Discovery* which was moored alongside the Embankment. And so I applied, and my D.C. gave me a very nice reference, and I got it.

[Part 1 0:10:48] Lee: How much did you know about Scott at that point?

Martin: Very little.

[Part 1 0:10:52] Lee: You'd not read about him as a boy?

Martin: Well, no, I did very little reading I wasn't encouraged to read, that was one of the difficulties of my life. And of course when I got there one of my jobs was to show visitors round and talk about Scott and the Antarctic so there was a lot of quick reading and studies for my part.

[Part 1 0:11:16] Lee: So would you regard that that then as being your first awareness or your first brush with the Antarctic?

Martin: Oh, yes. Yes. From a historical point of view, and as 1951 which was the Festival of Britain we did sledging from the ship along the Embankment which attracted quantities of the public.

[Part 1 0:11:44] Lee: Tell me about that.

Martin: Along with *The Times* magazine, if they ever wanted a picture they sent their cameraman down and we used to put youngsters up in the riggings and that was the picture they wanted, you know, it was always there.

[Part 1 0:11:58] Lee: Tell me about these huskies on the Embankment.

Martin: Well it was not huskies it was man-haul sleighing, yes. We got all the equipment with mukluks and all that equipment and loaded sledges and they were hauled along the Embankment there to the attraction of masses of the public.

[Part 1 0:12:23] Lee: Were you doing this?

Martin: No I didn't do that because my job was on board. The ship was open to the public; I was the money man [laughs].

[Part 1 0:12:33] Lee: So were the people hauling the sledges were they in Antarctic gear?

Martin: Yes, yes. They got it from somewhere I can't remember where it was now but whoever was responsible for that displays and that.

[Part 1 0:12:48] Lee: From the beginning, up and down the pavement, was it?

Martin: Yes up and down the Embankment, yes.

[Part 1 0:12:54] Lee: And the purpose was just to celebrate.

Martin: To celebrate, yes, 'cos the ship was dressed overall with lights. So that was really one of the ship's contributions to the Festival of Britain.

[Part 1 0:13:13] Lee: Did the *Discovery* ever go anywhere at that point, or was it moored permanently?

Martin: No, no, it was moored alongside then. In 1937 when the Duke of Gloucester took it B.P. [Note: Baden-Powell] accepted it on behalf of the association.

[Part 1 0:13:34] Lee: Can you remember what it was you read to brief yourself on the Scott's era?

Martin: Well I suppose the two volumes up here *Voyage of Discovery*. And everything really I had, there was a lot of material displayed all round the ship, and you picked it up as you went and we began to live with it, you felt part of it. And then, I suppose, when was it, it was in 1952 when the Association received a letter from the Governor of the Falkland Islands, Sir Miles Clifford, asking the Association to find two leaders for a relief expedition to Antarctica.

[Part 1 014:26] Lee: Now do you know why that letter was written, did you ever find out what spurred it?

Martin: No I don't, I didn't. All I know is that headquarters had received the letter and they put it into the magazine requesting applications, and I thought as I'm doing this job I really ought to go and see what it is like first hand, so I can speak with knowledge. And so I wrote off my application, and we had an Australian on board, Ian Clark, who was a leftover from the Australian contingent, and like most Australians they never go straight back home, they wander around Europe and so forth. Eventually he came as a paying guest on *Discovery* and he and I grew a friendship while he was there, and he applied also, and he went with me, so

we went together [laughter], which was rather nice, and we're still great friends, and keep in contact.

[Part 1 0:15:30] Lee: What do you remember of that little process, the selection process, did you have to go for an interview for example?

Martin: Ah yes, and, well it's a vague one now.

[Part 1 0:15:39] Lee: It's a long time ago.

Martin: It is a long time ago, but we obviously went to Scout headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road, and sat before a few commissioners there. Obviously we were asked a number of questions, and background, I suppose my background being a member of staff gave me one foot on the ladder, and Ian, being again an adventurous type and full of enthusiasm he got a foot on as well so we both had got selected and that was it.

[Part 1 0:16:14] Lee: So your memory is that you were interviewed by Scouting personnel, not by government people.

Martin: As far as I can remember that's all there were. As you say it's a long time ago and that's a blank piece, but the main thing was I got a place!

[Part 1 0:16:31] Lee: Exactly your names were forwarded to Clifford.

Martin: Yes, they would have done that, presumably to SecFIDS, Frank Elliott. And there we were, ready to go in October, November.

[Part 1 0:16:51] Lee: How much warning did you have, between being selected and sailing?

Martin: About a couple of months probably. Ian was on board so he had nothing really only to say I think a relative in Bournemouth to say 'Cheerio, I'm going here, keep in touch with the family', and then off we went.

[Part 1 0:17:18] Lee: Did you have any particular goodbyes to say?

Martin: I didn't, no, but I drew a blank. I left Cambridge and I put the shutter down. My family really were Cambridge people. My grandmother and my grandfather and there were four brothers, my father and three other sons of the family. Apart from the one I lived with, the one who lived in the grandfather's house and one who lived further up in Cambridge I very seldom saw, and it was one of those families, there wasn't a good relationship unfortunately with the brothers. So obviously I didn't know much and then when father and grandmother died, she died in '94 and was a district nurse delivering babies almost until the day she passed away. Incredible woman. But that's really the family there, when I left Cambridge that was it.

[Part 1 0:18:36] Lee: So when you were accepted by FIDS did they give you a clear idea what it was you were going to do down there?

Martin: Well I went down on the understanding that I was going to do met obs, 'cos I'd done a bit of met obs in Scouting, and that's what I thought I was going to do [laughter].

[Part 1 0:18:59] Lee: This is a familiar story, Arthur.

Martin: Well until I got to Stanley yes and then my interview with Frank, he said 'No', he said 'We want you to stay behind while the ship goes south to do some work on ionospherics, which was news to me of course. So I stayed behind and did some ionospheric work.

[Part 1 0:19:22] Lee: You were being trained at Stanley were you?

Martin: Yes, to do what was going to be required of me, which basically was to develop the 40 foot of film which came out the Beast [Note: this machine, the ionosonde, was always referred to by Fids as the 'Beastie'] every day, to develop that and dry it, and then analyse the frequencies, and get them coded for Geoff Collop to transmit back to Stanley. Basically that was the routine I was going to do, and did throughout the time there so it was film development, and then analysis of the results. But I put my foot down because I said 'Look, I came to do met work' and eventually he gave way, he said 'Alright', he said 'Instead of you doing every four hours', he said. 'We'll halve it. You do every six hours'. So I did met every six hours, and that satisfied me, because I did what I went, thought I was going to do.

[Part 1 0:20:30] Lee: What was Stanley like in 1952/53? What was it like when you first arrived? Paint me a little thumbnail sketch.

Martin: Well, yes. Fids usually got housed if they were staying behind for a little while with the Brecons, in Fitzroy Road, which is a sort of a large boarding house, and Ma Brecon and Jeanie, who was the daughter, a lovely lady, they both were, well we were more or less family really, they made you feel at home, they fed you well, looked after you. They kept an eye on you. And by and large that was it, because I suppose in those days, at Christmas time really, it was up to the ionospheric station and then back to be fed, and it was either writing or reading or, there wasn't much else to do really, 'cos there was apart from those that were with us and staying behind, there wasn't time enough really to make any commitments to people at that stage. So I was really pleased when the *Biscoe* came back and we went aboard again to go south, because that's really where I wanted to go.

[Part 1 0:21:59] Lee: By this time they'd shown you what to do with the ionospheric machine.

Martin: Well they gave me the idea; I mean basically they were looking at the reading of the frequencies, and how to judge that and so forth. Yes, I suppose I must have done a bit of developing there because, I walked into it as soon as we got the machine running, that was really it was set up when we were there, and as soon as it was set, it was set into motion.

[Part 1 0:22:35] Lee: You sailed on the *Biscoe* down to Port Lockroy, under Captain Johnston.

Martin: Yes. Captain Johnston, yes.

[Part 1 0:22:45] Lee: What did you make of him?

Martin: Oh a character.

[Part 1 0:22:49] Lee: In what respect?

Martin: Well, he was a big man, I suppose he's what you call a sea-going captain. I thought he was a delightful character. We had little to do with him of course, while we were sailing south there were 18 of us cramped in a few bunks and a small mess room and there we whiled our time. The other character I suppose was Chiefie, the engineer. I always recall that we went to Goose Green, and he backed up to the ferry and rested on the rudder [laughter], and I had to knock the rudder pin down, and they weren't doing well but Chiefie thought he was doing better and he took the sledgehammer, took one swipe at it and missed it and hit his foot [laughter]. That always remains an incident – yes, Chiefie.

[Part 1 0:24:18] Lee: So Stanley was a bit of a ghost town was it, would you say it???[incomprehensible]?

Martin: It was quiet. I suppose, as they say, rather like Fremantle in Australia which was almost a cowboy town in my day there; people used to ride in and hitch up their horses as they did in Stanley of course. They used to come in from the camps riding by horse, rather as they do today in Land Rovers and motorbikes, and so it was very much a, well it was a community, but a quiet community, going about its daily business, and we were just part of that doing our bit like everybody else.

[Part 1 0:25:09] Lee: And was the FIDS operation a mere speck in the town or did it dominate the town?

Martin: Well, no. Well it didn't dominate it, I suppose only when the ship came in and people got kitted out again in the stores alongside the quay there, or you went up to Government House where FIDS office was, they were the two points, and if you were on the ship and not coming ashore that was it. If you were coming ashore as I was for that short space of time then it was up to Brecon's, and then you walked to and fro. Yes, it's a place I grew to love – in a way I would have still been there today, I felt very much at home in the Falklands, but that wasn't to be, it's another story.

[Part 1 0:26:05] Lee: I may ask you about that towards the end. Let's go back to the chronology if we may, it doesn't matter that we dart about a bit, but you got on board the *Biscoe*, and she was a bit late leaving from Stanley wasn't she I gather that season – sorry, leaving for Lockroy?

Martin: I suppose she was, it must have been, well it was in January, it must have been.

[Part 1 0:26:26] Lee: So when you got there it was a fairly busy period to get there.

Martin: Well, we went to Admiralty Islands first, to offload there, then we went to Deception, again to offload, and then to Hope Bay, and again to offload, and each base was fascinating. First time in one's eyes are widened, and they were all different, particularly Deception going

through the Narrows there, and Hope Bay was, that climb up I can still remember it, and that's where I learnt to judge the size of packing cases - [laughter] – you knew how to look for a pack of cornflakes – [laughter] – which were large but light. Yes, you got to know your cargo quite quickly.

[Part 1 0:27:34] Lee: Because you hadn't spent many years yearning to go to the Antarctic, it kind of came upon you suddenly; maybe you didn't have that many expectations, but did the Antarctic strike you as being as you imagined it or, what were your first impressions of suddenly coming across the Antarctic Peninsula?

Martin: I mean, from the photographs, and the logs and things on *Discovery* I had a picture of what it was like. Now I was seeing it in reality, the beautiful blues and the ice and the 'bergs and here they were alive, they weren't pictures any more, they were real things. And then when wildlife came, and you actually saw a whale, this huge great lump of whale, or seals or penguins, here they were – my goodness – how delightful! It really was, yes. And next, I suppose, Hope Bay was the first time I really came into contact with huskies, because they used them to drag up the supplies as well, that was great. But then, we weren't there long, as soon as we finished we were off, down to Lockroy.

[Part 1 0:28:56] Lee: The huts you were visiting were probably not that much more evolved from the ones that Scott had been using I guess. Did that strike you?

Martin: Yes, I suppose they were. I don't actually recall a great deal of actually spending time in the huts. We saw them from the outside, but the task was offloading, carrying stores and doing the things that one had to do in there and then back for meal on board, and I suppose it wasn't till you got to Port Lockroy that actually here was a base, and yes, that's right, you could see it then couldn't you, the hut, which we enlarged during the summer period while the ship went further south and Ralph Lenton helped us to put the other extension on. But yes, it was that feeling but perhaps not quite as primitive as Scott would have had, when you see all the equipment stowed all around them, and that was not so in our case.

[Part 1 0:30:18] Lee: Walk me through the door. What would I see if I went through the door at Port Lockroy in that season that you were there?

Martin: Well, yes, it was a hallway, and then divided up. To the right you went to the engine shed, and just a little to the left you went to the galley, and then the living room, and then a bit further on was the bedroom, and the bit, which was that bit, was the bit we were going to build on, and there was some re-building from the bedroom to the galley to take the Beast, the ionospheric Beast.

[Part 1 0:31:02] Lee: Which you brought with you, in kit form?

Martin: That's right, yes, and Steve Ward, who was the base leader, and Fred Bird, who was the other ionospheric person, that's where they spent their early days very busily putting this thing together; and I suppose I was helping them – I was doing my met obs as well, so yes things got there but that was it. And the base grew as soon as we put the other bit on, the

radio shack got in one corner and I got in the other corner with the met and my decoding of the frequencies, and that became sort of the workshop as it were.

[Part 1 0:31:53] Lee: What was it like to do, the Beastie was in bits when she arrived, was that correct?

Martin: In crates, yes, yeah, she must have been in crates.

[Part 1 0:32:01] Lee: Were you involved in the observations?

Martin: Not really, no, doing the things that I was asked to do, that was beyond me in my day [laughter]. A new world.

[Part 1 0:32:17] Lee: There were problems though weren't there with getting it going?

Martin: I think so, yes. I think there were words passing to and fro between Steve and Geoff and Fred. They sorted them out, it was time and error, they knew what they were doing, at least I was sure they knew what they were doing, and they got onto it, and I suppose I then got on to preparing the dark room ready to receive the first load of film that came out.

[Part 1 0:32:58] Lee: Were there any techniques you had to use for developing an extraordinary long roll of film thirty metres, forty metres?

Martin: It was like a, I suppose you'd call it a forty gallon drum cut in half, so it was like a bath, and this winding thing that you wrapped the film round, and you turned it so it was going up and down, round and round until it got to the stage where you could see the prints there, then you washed it and fixed it as it were, and then dried it, and as soon as it was dried you cut it off in bits so we began to decode it.

[Part 1 0:33:43] Lee: And the practicalities of all that, what would you do with the old chemicals, or would you re-use and re-use and re-use?

Martin: Yes, they were re-used for a time until they got weak and then you mixed up another lot.

[Part 1 0:33:56] Lee: So what happened to the old chemical?

Martin: Well it went out onto the ice, just like everything else did in those days, [laughs], you didn't bring it home with...

[Part 1 0:34:06] Lee: So it was put in a drum was it and put on the ice?

Martin: Yes. It was carted out and put on the ice along with the other rubbish.

[Part 1 0:34:15] Lee: And drying can't have been that easy?

Martin: Well the hut was never, I mean it was warm, and paper dries in warm whether it was a different type of paper that didn't take long to dry but it dried reasonably crisp. I don't know if I've got a bit there or not but you've probably seen it anyway. By the end of the day,

'cos I used to develop in the morning, by evening time it was dry, and probably then I would cut it and work on it in the evening and finish it the following day, to get off the results.

[Part 1 0:35:01] Lee: Can you in layman's language describe the process of converting this photograph into Morse code information?

Martin: There was a [chuckles] yes. I measured the frequencies and by coding, and I can't remember the codes now, they've passed on me now, and once I got the codes there what I did was pass it to Geoff who then messaged to Stanley.

[Part 1 0:35:38] Lee: So you were just simply reading them, the frequencies on the film.

Martin: Yes.

[Part 1 0:35:41] Lee: Writing them down.

Martin: Writing them down.

[Part 1 0:35:43] Lee: Then converting them into Morse code.

Martin: That's right, well he did that, I gave him the figures and he just did it from there.

[Part 1 0:35:54] Lee: And who was at the other end, who was receiving all this information?

Martin: Well, somebody in Stanley, presumably at the wireless station in Stanley, and then they, I think they moved it on then to South Africa, which was I think the collecting station from various parts around the world.

[Part 1 0:36:11] Lee: And was it ever explained to you why this information was so important?

Martin: Only that it was to do with short wave radio and critical frequencies for certain frequencies for transmission and so forth. But it was something I never really got terribly involved with except doing the bit that I knew I had to do, and I did it, and I enjoyed it. But then you never know these things do you, how what you contribute means further along the line. It's a piece of a jigsaw into a whole picture. But it was enjoyable.

[Part 1 0:36:57] Lee: The other work you were doing was this met observations as you mentioned before.

Martin: Yes.

[Part 1 0:37:01] Lee: Tell me a bit about that if you wouldn't mind.

Martin: Yes, well every six, twelve, six and midnight I would climb up to the Stevenson screen to take the temperature readings up there, barograph reading, and I had a wind speed dial down in the office along with a barometer, and I collected all that, observed the cloud formation etc, and then wrote up, again the report for Geoff to transmit to Stanley, and I did that every four hours really.

[Part 1 0:37:50] Lee: Were you getting any surprising results, or was it all routine?

Martin: Well it was routine, the weather changed obviously. During the winter you had to get yourself out of the front door challenging yourself so you could get up to the Stevenson screen which was behind the hut, and that was quite risky at times in a gale, and I remember several times as you're going out in very strong winds with an ice axe in my hand, and once or twice I got ???[incomprehensible] and caught hold with my ice axe and managed to get up to the screen and did what I had to do, reset the thermometers and then back again.

[Part 1 0:38:45] Lee: So the ice axe was a kind of anchor against the wind?

Martin: Oh absolutely, yes, very much so. And then on other nights you go there and beautiful moonlight night, and the splendour of the surrounds, the mountains and the ice in moonlight was absolutely terrific, and the corona which you got one or two pictures of that, there was on one occasion, and I often say this, this was one of the times I felt my nearest to my maker, because it was, I suppose it, well it was a corona, but it was as if Christ was there with his arms out, and that stood in my memory, and I just stood there watching this for some time, and then I thought, 'My goodness how splendid!'

[Part 1 0:39:38] Lee: Can you elaborate on that for me?

Martin: Well it, there was this the arc there and the colours of, beautiful colours of reds and yellows, and blues, and the light that's reflected from it appeared to be this outstretched arms, it must've been a reflection from one part of the optical phenomena that was causing it, but there it was – but it was the only time I ever saw that, but it remains as a very definite memory to me of the stillness of the Antarctic itself.

[Part 1 0:40:31] Lee: One Fid said to me that if God had chosen to dwell on Earth he would be in the Antarctic.

Martin: He would certainly have had his peace there [laughter]. He'd have time to meditate.

[Part 1 0:40:49] Lee: In the log, the 1953 log of Port Lockroy - we've got copies here - you've done some fantastic sketches of the solar haloes and the parheliads, and mock suns as well, there's a brilliant piece of sketching, with what I presume are coloured pencils, Arthur, and just talk me through this one because this is a complete circle around the sun with two phantom suns.

Martin: Yes I suppose it was. When you look at this bit, this sort of arc that came out there it could be as if they were actually turned the other way.

[Part 1 0:41:37] Lee: But, this one here has the sun in the centre of a circle of light, and then at three o'clock and nine o'clock on the circle light around the sun there appear to be secondary images of the sun, what you call them 'phantom suns'.

Martin: That could be; I drew as I saw it, with the amazement of what I saw. It was quite fantastic, I'd never seen it before and the first time you see these things you become

overwhelmed, rainbows yes, but this was something quite different, quite different, quite phenomenal. Yes.

[Part 1 0:42:25] Lee: Did anybody ever explain or did you ever understand how it happened?

Martin: No. No. I suppose it was a part, there was nobody else really on base at that time to share it with that were properly interested because they had their work to do and their concentrations were in the ionospheric work, and I suppose it was then just a piece of the daily routine - you wrote, you drew, and recorded what you saw.

[Part 1 0:43:04] Lee: So you still don't understand why this image appeared?

Martin: No I don't, no.

[Part 1 0:43:10] Lee: Only in the Antarctic.

Martin: Well yes. I suppose people would say it was a form of ice crystals being captured by something, must have been the rays of the moon mustn't it? That's probably moon, or reddish moon. It couldn't have been the sun, 'cos the sun wasn't there, was it? So it must have been the moon, and the moon reflecting itself on ice crystals or particles that were suspended in the atmosphere above.

[Part 1 0:43:46] Lee: So these are both images taken at night?

Martin: Yes.

[Part 1 0:43:49] Lee: I see. At one point you talk about how you would have liked to have seen these images from a different angle, different location – but you didn't have any camping gear or the gear to get away.

Martin: Well yes, we were certainly a static base [laughter], but we did have a man-haul sledge on base, and we did have bits and pieces like skis and ski sticks, and Robbie, the diesel and electrical mechanic, set about building an igloo on base, and he was quite successful with it, so successful he'd cut himself in and spent a night in there, and it worked. So three of us decided we should do an expedition [chuckles], and I was particularly interested in this area, the Fief Range, the gap between there, because it was in there Lieutenant Commander Marr and his party had a near miss with an avalanche, and as it was a part of the early history, and he had a Scouting connection as well, I thought I must go and have a look up there. And so the three of us, Geoff, Fred and I, we were the three that did it and we left Steve and Robbie on base. Steve fortunately was also a radio man so he could operate the radio, and he could take one or two of the readings for me from the screen, and I did the rest, he knew what to follow, so I did a workup when we were up on the top of the ice shelf, and we transmitted that back and that was sent off, nobody of course knew we were out [laughs]. So we spent, yes, we climbed up this hundred foot high ice cliff onto the glacier and started to pull away but it was very hard going, we kept sinking but we persevered hauling this sledge, and we got to the, got further still and we moved on a bit further and then we thought 'Well we must do something about building this igloo for the night', and so we set to work on this. We got two

layers round the igloo, and the third section wouldn't hold, it crumbled, and it obviously wasn't going to build the igloo.

[Part 1 0:46:47] Lee: He had no igloo building training, this was all done . . .

Martin: Oh no, Robbie did this on base and it held!

[Part 1 0:46:54] Lee: He was learning as he went on, was he?

Martin: Absolutely. So we thought quickly 'What are we going to do?' so we thought 'Ah! Yes, we'll dig a hole', so we dug out the hole, and we had a hole and with our skis, our sledge and sticks we laid on top and put the ice blocks on top, then cut a tunnel and crawled in, and spent the night there, and I cooked inside while they did their bits and pieces, and there we spent the night, and the following day we wandered around a bit and then made back to base.

[Part 1 0:47:31] Lee: This is a lie-over was it? Because of bad weather?

Martin: Yes it was definitely a night out as it were. We knew we shouldn't have gone but nobody knew [laughs].

[Part 1 0:47:42] Lee: It was an illicit night out?

Martin: It was an illicit night out, yes.

[Part 1 0:47:45] Lee: Was there any comeback?

Martin: No, I'm not quite sure how it got out or not, it must have got out. I think somebody got a rocket for it but we enjoyed it. We set out to achieve something and we did.

[Part 1 0:48:03] Lee: One of the problems with that was the fact your boots were freezing.

Martin: Ooh absolutely, yeah. The old stove, the old Bunsen, the old cooking stove from there boiling up pemmican hash certainly caused a fug, but by golly in the morning things were stiff to get going. I s'pose we were quite lucky really. I mean no-one can visualise what might have happened, it's just going to happen, whatever happened, and but we felt fairly competent, it was going to be alright, as one must do. Anyway, we dug out eventually, and there it was, beautiful day.

[Part 1 0:49:04] Lee: So that, the hole was an essential shelter for the night, it wasn't just Boy Scouting, it was life and death?

Martin: Yes, it was, yes. Well what you do if you can't build an igloo? One had heard about ice caves, dug in and got inside to take shelter, so all you've got to do really is to find a wall round you, and a roof over your head, and that was it – the dugout!

[Part 1 0:49:36] Lee: You were searching for a safe route to the mountains weren't you between Wall Mount and Sierra de Fiefa [phonetic]

Martin: Yes, Serra de Fiefa [phonetic].

[Note: The Antarctic Place-names Committee gazetteer recognises 'Wall Range' and 'Fief Mountains' in this area.]

[Part 1 0:49:44] Lee: What was that about? What were you trying to achieve?

Martin: Well I was really trying to look at the sort of area which Marr travelled, but the time actually didn't allow it, we were due back, and we had to get back to base again. But at least we were out there, and we were close to it, and it was different from looking at it at base, you were actually on the glacier, and there it was, that gap and the mountain range there, there must have been an avalanche through there.

[Part 1 0:50:34] Lee: You did then other trips on skis as well, but that was the only man-hauling sledge trip?

Martin: No. The only skiing that we did was exercise really. Lockroy is, as you know, is an outcrop of rock, and then it's frozen over when winter comes, and there was really nothing one can do close by to that really. But we were able to do some ski practice, which was interesting if you'd never skied before, as most of us hadn't, and some of us spent most of our time with our head down and our skis up, rather than standing upright. But in time we mastered it, and enjoyed it, and it was a form of exercise, which was necessary to relieve the boredom of the daily routine.

[Part 1 0:51:33] Lee: I'm impressed by the artwork on these pictures of the meteorological images you saw, and I wonder whether artwork was something you were pursuing before or after and did you continue it?

Martin: No. I suppose there's a bit of a connection with the district commissioner I talked to you about, who was very helpful to me in many ways and set me lots of challenges, but he worked as an assistant librarian at the university library and I admired his writing, he had a script, and I said to him one day 'I've always admired your writing'. He said 'Yes', he said 'Arthur, if you came to work with us at the university library, your first day', he said, 'We will give you a card,' he said, 'This is now how you will write if you wish to work with us', [chuckles], and I thought 'Well, there's a challenge', so I suppose eventually I began to look to pen and ink, and over the years I began to develop that and I never realised it to the point I really wanted to go, I never reached that point, but I still do it, I do all the baptismal registers and things in the church - I'm known as the parish clerk [chuckles] - so it's kept me going and that's really that letter from the district commissioner ???[incomprehensible], and really that, I suppose it's one thing I've said to myself 'When you retire, Arthur, you must take up pen and ink'; it's just something I really wanted to do when I found time to retire.

[Part 1 0:53:23] Lee: So these drawings are pen and ink with colour pencil?

Martin: That's right.

[Part 1 0:53:27] Lee: They really are very spectacular images of the sun or the moon doing remarkable things in the atmosphere in the Antarctic, partly of course the atmosphere was so

clear down there. The ionosonde machine, the automatic one you installed, would be operating 24 hours a day.

Martin: That's right, five minutes to the hour it clicked on, and then it did its five minutes' sweep, clicked off, and then it went round until it came to five minutes to the hour again, clicked on. So every hour, five minutes to the hour as it were, it clicked on, recorded what was going on in the ionosphere, and recorded it on this piece of film.

[Part 1 0:54:16] Lee: Was there a booming noise attached to it as well?

Martin: It was a hum; yes well what I can remember it was a hum because it was in a room of its own.

[Part 1 0:54:30] Lee: And of course there has to be a generator running all the time as well?

Martin: Indeed. There were four generators as I remember it, one which was running all the time, one which was standby, one which was – no there would be two, one was running, one would take over from one that was running, while the other one sort of cooled down and got maintenance work on it, one in bits as it were being really overhauled, and a spare one, and they were going 24 hours a day, really well.

[Part 1 0:55:10] Lee: So there was no escape from the noise?

Martin: No. But strangely enough it wasn't terrific, it was a gentle hum going all the time, it was in its own part and there was a door there, but I suppose one was conscious of it, like a train – if you run alongside the railway you don't notice it, do you, and I think that was the same with the generator, it was there, but it was part of living, part of the atmosphere of the base, it was a part of the hum of the day.

[Part 1 0:55:49] Lee: Building an igloo of course meant you could escape from it I suppose especially away from base?

Martin: Yeah. It was, one it was the warmest place in the hut, none of it was cold because there was a radiator, and the anthracite stove in the living room. No, and the galley was anthracite as well, the stove kept a lot of warmth going.

[Part 1 0:56:21] Lee: What's of your Boy Scout's attributes did you find most useful, in the Antarctic?

Martin: Yes, yes. When we arrived, and on the first day, Steve said to me, he said 'I believe you were a Scout?', so I said 'Yes, I was', he said 'Well you must know something about first aid', so I said 'Well I got my ambulance badge', 'Oh' he said, 'You're our medical officer', and he said 'There's your medical box there', he said, chest sitting on the floor there, and later on in the day I thought 'I'd better have a look and see what was in there'. So I opened the lid, and first tray was a set of surgical instruments. 'Phew' I said [laughs], I took that out, and on the second tray was a set of dental instruments [laughing]. Anyway, eventually we got to bandages at the bottom, and I thought 'My goodness, I hope I don't have to use these'.

[Part 1 0:57:30] Lee: Did you have any call to be a doctor?

Martin: Well yes, I did, but I didn't use – apart from odd cuts and things, stickers and bandages and things – I didn't use anything else. But I had two other pieces of equipment which weren't in there, and one was a blowlamp, and that because somebody got his John Thomas stuck to the bucket, and I had to free it from the bucket.

[Part 1 0:58:04] Lee: How did you do that?

Martin: Well just gently warming the sides of the while he's sat out there with his legs apart and you've got to warm the metal there and eventually it eased [laughing]. And the second one was Steve got trouble with his back passage, and he said 'You better have a look at this', it looked a bit red to me so I said 'I don't know what that is', so we got in touch with Hope Bay, where they had the doctor, and I said 'We've got trouble here', he said 'Well, you better have a closer look' he said, and that's why the inspection lamp came into being so I was able to use the inspection lamp to find the symptoms of what the trouble was, and then he told me what to do [laughing]. But that was interesting, that was my first aid badge – and my cook's badge of course, yes.

[Part 1 0:59:11] Lee: And other Boy Scout attributes such as knots, lighting fires with two sticks?

Martin: Well, it's lots of things like communications and in a way they weren't the whole background and ethos is about living as a patrol in fact it was a group of five men it was a patrol of Scouts with a patrol leader, that's the base leader, and everybody had a specific role, and one interchanged roles, because one did cooking one week, and other chores another week fetching the stores, the anthracite, etc and so you move round. And there was the routine cleanliness of the base, it's terribly important and always is if you want to be healthy you've got to have a healthy environment, and so that was a part again of the week routine, the scrub-out day [laughs], which was a bartering day in many respects; people didn't like scrubbing or doing odd chores, so if you could bear to do it you could barter for it.

[Part 1 1:00:22] Lee: How do you mean?

Martin: I enjoyed chocolate you see [laughing], I didn't smoke so people would do things and they would have my ration of cigarettes, and so we got through life that way, and it was a happy band of five people really.

[Part 1 1:00:41] Lee: Tell me a bit about the five of them. There was Steven Ward who was the base leader.

Martin: Yes. Steve was in the acting business as far as I can recall. I believe he was a married man, but he never spoke about his wife, he never spoke about the stage either, but he was a tall man, very firm, I think a good leader, he kept us together. Yes, I liked Steve. Dicky Bird, a short man, again what I call a chubby fellow really, happy, I could almost see him as a bosun of a ship somewhere, that sort of well-built man. And Geoff, Geoff Collop, the wireless operator with his great ginger beard, seemed to be nothing, but except at the

keyboard all twiddling around in there he lived on the radio all day long, except for the cat, which slept above him on one of the transmitters – and that was Geoff. And Robbie, who spent most of his time in and out of the engine room, who was a great lover of classical music, and we took records down with us from Stanley, ‘cos he was doing his second year, and he was very fond of Mendelssohn, and we had Mendelssohn’s clarinet concerto, not once, twice, but sometimes three or four times a day [chuckles], so by the end of the base you could almost hum that concerto. But even if you didn’t like it you got caught with it, and I did like it because I was very fond of that type of music. So yes. And as a fivesome I could only remember on one occasion that somebody got upset somewhere, and went out and slammed the door, and I think we looked at each other and thought ‘What?’ Anyway we did nothing, and three hours late he came back, and that was it, forgotten.

[Part 1 1:03:23] Lee: Let’s just take a break. We have lots more still to talk about. Thank you.

Part 2:

[Part 2 0:00:00] Lee: This is Arthur Martin recorded at his home in Eastleigh, Hampshire on the 28th of June, 2010, by Chris Eldon Lee. Arthur Martin, Part 2.

[Part 2 0:00:14] Lee: I’m intrigued by this, Arthur, this is one of the highlights of your Antarctic collection.

Martin: Oh yes. My teeth, yes. [Laughs].

[Part 2 0:00:22] Lee: Not *your* teeth.

Martin: My set of teeth.

[Part 2 0:00:24] Lee: Your victims’ teeth.

Martin: Lovely teeth too.

[Part 2 0:00:26] Lee: Tell me the story behind that.

Martin: Well, Steve and Fred had gone out in the dinghy, and on his way back Robbie suddenly spotted a leopard seal following them, and as they got nearer to the ice he yelled ‘Get the gun!’ he said. So we went and got the gun, and he climbed out onto the ice, he took the gun and he said ‘Bang!’, and he shot it. So we hauled it up onto the ice, and then he started to gut it, and so we had fresh seal meat for quite a while. The head, I had it, a vision of trying to get it stuffed so I could stick it on the wall somewhere, like a jungle trophy. So I started to flense the blubber off the inside of the head and unfortunately I sliced my thumb, and because the parasites in the blubber I wasn’t able to carry on doing anything for several weeks. And when I came to it, it was too far gone to do that so I thought ‘What am I going to do with it now, I must have something perhaps I’ll have the bone structure?’ So I boiled it in caustic soda. Well that was alright but a lot of the bones disintegrated, so I lost that stage of

the bit, but I was left with the jaws, and here was a full set of teeth. So I played the dentist on them and extracted the whole set –yes, a beautiful set, and they fascinate people, when I occasionally take them round if somebody asks me I go and chat about the Antarctic and I take this along [laughs]. Yes, they're a lovely set, and I shall give them to BAS as a souvenir one day.

[Part 2 0:02:51] Lee: I presume you had to become quite a dab hand at killing wildlife for various reasons?

Martin: Well, yes, the only other two that we ate of course were Gentoo penguins and the blue-eyed shags. We didn't have many blue-eyed shags and what we did we found that the most delightful meat to have, provided you hung it and that it drained out and then soaked it in salt water to get rid of some of the fish, or vinegar and water and get rid of the fish, but yes, I amuse people when they say 'Well why do you eat penguins?', 'Oh', I said, 'Yes', I said 'If you have a casserole for five people you need six penguins'. 'Course they shudder immediately thinking there's six penguins going in so I said 'Well, when you see 35,000 on a hill half a dozen is nothing!' But yes, and penguin eggs we had which of course a penguin is a red yolk which you can't fry because they don't set that way, but they make nice buttered eggs, scrambled eggs, and nice pink sponge.

[Part 2 0:04:16] Lee: You weren't just feeding yourself, were you? There was also Tiddles.

Martin: Oh well there was Tiddles. This is one of the blanks in my mind, I knew Tiddles was there because it always seemed to be on top of Geoff's transmitter, but I can never really recall it moving around in the base itself. How strange but it must have gone outside. I mean when we were building the extension it was up on the roof, I do remember that, but during period that we were alone Tiddles was up on that transmitter, and I never fed it, I only take it Geoff must have fed it – it was his cat I think. So that is a strange blank bit that. At the time I'd forgotten about Tiddles altogether, I mean he was up there, and I was there, but he was there, and he was, well he was a part of the establishment just like a furniture fitting. Somebody asked me what happened to him, and as far as I remember he was still on base when I left, but I do gather that in 1956 he apparently moved off from the transmitter, and it must have been at an angle where it fell on top of him, and damaged him, and he never came out of there, but he was taken by Ralph Lenton from Stanley in 1952, so he must have taken it down on the trip that I should have gone down, because I stayed in Stanley over Christmas, so that's how he got there.

[Part 2 0:06:11] Lee: What were your feeding Tiddles on?

Martin: Well that I couldn't tell you, I mean he must have been scraps of what we'd got.

[Part 2 0:06:17] Lee: Well, I understood you were killing penguins to feed Tiddles.

Martin: Yes, but you only killed them during the time that they were there breeding, and when they've gone north again there was nothing of that sort, and you were really on dehydrated food, and tinned food, and there was certainly no Whiskas or cat food supplied. I

suppose somebody must have given him penguin eggs probably, split up with something or other. Because as I say I just don't remember, somebody fed him.

[Part 2 0:06:58] Lee: There was some debate apparently about whether having a cat on a base was a good idea. Hope Bay had advised against it because it divided the Bay into two camps, the cat camps, and the anti-cat camp.

Martin: Yes.

[Part 2 0:07:11] Lee: Did you remember any angst about Tiddles?

Martin: No. I mean I like cats, I always liked cats. It was there, it was a part of the establishment, and he was a part of us, even though, as I say, he was no trouble, no trouble at all. And he survived until he met his end, which was unfortunate. I believe there were other cats in the Antarctic, that was Tiddles with us.

[Part 2 0:07:54] Lee: Tell me about S.S. *Great Britain*, but actually we'll come to her later on 'cos she was in the Falklands, wasn't she?

Martin: Yes she was in the Falkands, yes.

[Part 2 0:08:03] Lee: There were some key events that took place whilst you were down in Port Lockroy, one of which of course is the Mid-Winter's Day, and we've got here a photocopy of the menu that erm ...

Martin: That's right.

[Part 2 0:08:15] Lee: ... that you were partly if not fully responsible for.

Martin: Yes, I thought I should do something to represent the trades, the crafts, the professions as it were of all of us on the base. So I set my mind to think of a display for the front cover, which you can see there with our man-haul sledge, a penguin, and a shield which represented the ionosphere – there's the ionospheric card, the aerials, the weather bits.

[Part 2 0:08:52] Lee: Anemometer and weather vanes.

Martin: That's right, so that really said 'This is us!', which was, I suppose, our symbol as it were yes, and I thought 'Well this is my pen and ink coming again', and then a programme developed as the day went on it was a round robin of bases, there was a chess game going on, and we were passing greetings to one another, and then there was a Mid-Winter message from the Governor of the Falkland Islands, which we all listened to, and it was a very happy day. We also enjoy food – that's the thing about food, I think in those days, because the amount of food was somewhat regular, I mean it followed a pattern about a four week pattern and then you started the four week pattern again, or you could shift it so that it changed. But you knew roughly what the big bits were, it was tongue on one week, it was ham the next week, brisket of beef the next, and so, 'What do you do with it?', and you can turn out the same old thing week after week, but you can soon get bored with that, and so I think the art of the cook of the day was to see how he could improve what had gone before, and you could

create a new dish, and I think that was everybody's challenge and some were better than others, some enjoyed experimenting, and I well remember the first time I made my bread, I'd never made bread, I'd made dampers – a Scout damper was just a camp bread – but I'd never, and it didn't rise, I was very disappointed then. But second attempt it did, and there was no looking back after that. Baking every other day, yes.

[Part 2 0:10:59] Lee: Here's a menu for that Mid-Winter's Day meal in 1953 at Port Lockroy. Rather an international menu I'd have thought that, Arthur, with French, English and Scottish elements?

Martin: Yes, I erm...

[Part 2 0:11:13] Lee: And Belgian?

Martin: My French wasn't terribly good, so I sought help with that so it was in a way a combined effort, to get it. I sowed ideas, and together we put it together, and had the meal as the menu says.

[Part 2 0:11:34] Lee: Christmas pudding is '*Pudding de Noel a l'Anglais, avec crème a Nestlé*'.

Martin: Yes. Well again Nestle it was I suppose it was evaporated milk [laughter], doctored up as it were.

[Part 2 0:11:50] Lee: What on Earth is 'Port Stanley Rock'? Was that Blackpool Rock?

Martin: No I think it was a Port Stanley Rock, somebody bought it on the way down – they'd never eaten it, they produced it for Mid-Winter, so it was a piece of Port Stanley rock, one of the sweets as it were.

[Part 2 0:12:10] Lee: It seems that you gathered round to listen to the radio a couple of times in the day: one thirty '*Calling the Falklands*', five fifteen '*The Miles Clifford Address*'.

Martin: Yes, which was relayed out from Stanley, and then Geoff just kept twiddling in, twiddling out, so you picked up this and picked up that throughout the day, and we shared base to base as the day went on.

[Part 2 0:12:43] Lee: You also picked up the two other royal events then, two royal events, one was the death of Queen Mary, which apparently took place shortly after you got there.

Martin: Yes. Strangely enough I don't remember a great deal about that. I suppose that was a bit, where I was, I can't remember now, but it obviously happened, but it was one of those things, at the bottom of the Earth you weren't conscious of it happening, you weren't there anymore, so that one really slipped by, was an event nationally, a great mourning of course, but, no, life went on and the poor soul had passed away and she was at peace. But the other one...

[Part 2 0:13:35] Lee: That's June the third, the Coronation.

Martin: Yes. And that's strange you see, because Coronation Day, the official day I think was the second? However, the Antarctic official day was the third, and the Post Office had to mark all the first day stamps the third of July, [long pause]; this is very odd. I'll show you some stamps...

[Part 2 0:14:06] Lee: Please do.

Martin: You've got them, have you?

[Part 2 0:14:11] Lee: According to this you and two base members you got up to listen to the coronation of the queen on radio at 6 a.m. Do you remember doing that?

Martin: Well I would have got up at six anyway to do a met ob, so I would have been about, yes.

[Part 2 0:14:24] Lee: So listening to the coronation was a secondary attraction?

Martin: Yes [chuckling], that's right! I do remember that day I hoisted a new Union Jack, [laughter], and I brought it home with me when I came out of base – there wasn't much left of it but... We celebrated that, I took - being a royalist - I took out a new Union Jack and flew it, and that evening Robbie had found in the stores some gunpowder, so we thought we should have a firework display [laughter]. So we brought up a great big base in the ice with a stream out which we touched off and away it went and 'Whoom!' our firework display, to celebrate Coronation Day.

[Part 2 0:15:20] Lee: Were these fireworks you manufactured or were they merely explosions?

Martin: Oh it was just a mass of gunpowder.

[Part 2 0:15:29] Lee: A big bang?

Martin: Yeah. That was Robbie's pitch, he found it, he knew what he was going to do with it, and he did.

[Part 2 0:15:39] Lee: The other event that day of course was...

Martin: Oh I think it was a great day that.

[Part 2 0:15:45] Lee: The other event that took place, or was announced on that day, was the conquest of Everest. Did that news reach you?

Martin: Yes it did, yes. It was a great day, it was a great achievement, and everybody rejoiced in that.

[Part 2 0:16:03] Lee: Did you meet Fuchs?

Martin: Yes, yes. Not until afterwards. I was at a reunion, and then I met him several times when I was on the BAS committee, which I did eight years of that, and occasionally he came to meetings and it was always a pleasure to see him. There was something about the man.

[Part 2 0:16:32] Lee: How do you mean?

Martin: Sort of an inspiration in the man's face, you could almost be picked up by it. He shone something, exploration, expeditions, ventures into the unknown, but there was a character in his face which I think was alright, at least I could see it that way any of it. I suppose some people see things in people others don't but I shall always remember his face, he was a character.

[Part 2 0:17:16] Lee: The other character you met was Frank Elliot, who was SecFIDS.

Martin: Oh, yes.

[Part 2 0:17:20] Lee: Tell me about him?

Martin: Well yes, he was, as I told you, my first encounter with him, about when I was not going to do met but I *was* going to do met, and then when I came home in '54 I was hoping to get back to *Discovery* to take up my post, but the Association found it couldn't afford to keep it, it certainly couldn't afford to do the renovations which were necessary, and so it was decided they were going to have to get rid of it, and when I came home she was in St. Catherine's Dock, and I went to have a look at her, and there was no job there for me at all, so I came home with no home, and no job, and I went to stay at the Scouts' settlement in East London for a while. Eventually I met up with the young lady who I'd met at the age of nine and she was, as you say, there for me for life, and that was the girl I wanted. But we had become engaged during the war, she was in the WRENS and I was in the navy.

[Part 2 0:18:46] Lee: This is Beryl?

Martin: Yes. But she was of the Roman Catholic faith and I was Church of England and she said 'It wouldn't work' and I said 'It would', 'It wouldn't work,' 'It would', and eventually we parted company, but as friends. And then some time went by and when I came in '54 I got in touch with her again, and it wasn't, but here was I with no home, no parents, very little money, and no prospects of getting married. So I thought 'What are we going to do?' So I thought 'Well, I could go back on the ice for two years, I can't spend money down there, at least I'd save something to get married.' But before I came home, Gordon Howkins who was the chief met officer said 'If you're down this way again' he said, 'and want a job' he said, 'I might find you one in the office'. So when I went to see Frank I said 'Look, Gordon said there's a chance of a job', he said 'Well, we can't do anything about it here, Crown Agents can't do that you'll have to arrange that when you get south', he said 'You might get lucky, you might not'. So I left in the June of '54 with a chance of either staying in Stanley or going South again, for two years. When I got to Stanley I went to see Gordon, and said 'Things have changed since I last saw you', I said, 'I've become engaged, and want to get married, is any chance of staying here?'

[Part 2 0:20:40] Lee: But Beryl was a Falklander, was she?

Martin: No. She lived in Luton, well Hitchin, Bedfordshire, or Hertfordshire. He said 'Strangely enough', he said, 'We've got somebody in here who's damn bursting his boilers,

he wants to go South', and he said 'If you can pick up his job in three months', he said, 'He can go and you can stay'. He went, I stayed, and when I stayed I got in touch with Beryl and she said 'I'm coming!' and her father sent her out as a wedding present [laughter]. And she arrived in the February of '55 and we were married, '55.

[Part 2 0:21:19] Lee: So the met job with Howkins was in Stanley? Beryl was sent south, to marry you?

Martin: Yes, she came out on the *Andes* as far as Montevideo, and then on the *Fitzroy* to Stanley, and I managed to rent a house, in John Street, which was our home then for three years. And Gordon, Gordon Howkins was my best man, and Frank Elliot gave Beryl away, in place of her father.

[Part 2 0:21:57] Lee: Tell me a bit about Gordon Howkins, I did go and interview him a few years back, he's now passed away of course, but what do you [overtalk]...

Martin: Well I mean it's strange, we kept in touch with Ina and Frank, and Susan, who was the daughter, over the years. I'd written several times to Gordon and I never got a reply for some unknown reason, and I wrote again I suppose two years ago now but I never got a reply so I thought 'He's either dead or doesn't want to renew our acquaintance, but I hear regularly from Frank, who's '94/5 now. His wife died some years ago, Susan's in Hawaii, and he has a granddaughter who keeps an eye on him regularly.

[Part 2 0:22:50] Lee: What did you make of Gordon Howkins?

Martin: Gordon, he was a friend as far as I was concerned. He watched over the work I did in the met office, which I enjoyed. I mean I wouldn't call myself a meteorologist but I'd picked up what I had to do, and I enjoyed doing what I did. I used to draw all the maps and charts ???[incomprehensible] to do the forecasting on and I used to put up the balloons and so forth, and all the other rigmarole, but I only did for nine months. The Treasury by which the FIDS' accounts were looked after by the Colonial Treasury, but they could never get the information they wanted, so Frank said 'Would you take them over'. So I took them out of the Colonial Treasury into the hut alongside the town hall there which the Army using now as a Bomb Disposal headquarters, and set it up there with Ingrid Petterson, who was a member of, who was looking after with me in the Colonial Office until we moved, and we set it up there, and that was going very well, until they sent out Bill Tinsley from the Colonial Office. I hadn't got the school tie and so of course he took charge and I continued doing the work ???[incomprehensible] but he took over from there, and so I left him with it when I came home in '57. But yes they were happy days.

[Part 2 0:24:31] Lee: Am I right in thinking that you were instrumental in establishing the Treasury...

Martin: Yes.

[Part 2 0:24:36] Lee: ... for FIDS?

Martin: Yes.

[Part 2 0:24:37] Lee: What happened before?

Martin: By and large it was there but in the Colonial Treasury, and Ingrid worked on it as a part of the Colonial Treasury staff, and then when I moved, when he asked me to do this I went in to pick up the stringers as it were and then we sort of lifted it up as it were and took it down to the hut. So it was a follow on but it was running the routine instead of it being done by the Colonial Treasury.

[Part 2 0:25:14] Lee: A challenging job?

Martin: Well it was, yes, because I had had accounting experience both in the Cambridge Examination Syndicate in Mill Lane in the accounts department there and then my time with the County Treasury's office, which is when I first came in to the punched card system, [laughing], pre-computer world.

[Part 2 0:25:41] Lee: What were the challenges in Stanley then for the Treasury, the new Treasury?

Martin: Well I suppose getting to grips with it, and then keeping it up to date and having material ready for when somebody says 'How's the situation now?', instead of waiting for the Colonial to deliver it we could almost do it the same day; it was an instant rather than having to wait the time for the Colonial Treasury to produce it.

[Part 2 0:26:08] Lee: What were the parameters of your books, what were you actually accounting for?

Martin: Right, the invoices which were allocated, and then they were coded off, so it was coded and entered into the registers under certain codes, there was salaries, FIDS pay and so forth, expenses and so forth, so it was following the normal accounting routine.

[Part 2 0:26:37] Lee: But it was purely for the South if you like, for Stanley, and...

Martin: Stanley [overtalk] the bases.

[Part 2 0:26:43] Lee: You weren't dealing with the London office.

Martin: Because it wasn't very big in those days; it was basically in Stanley. It wasn't until, what '56, '57 that they came up to Greyfriars was it? They had an office there, and then it began, and it developed there and it eventually went to Cambridge. And during that time I took on the IGY account, which was a separate account from BAS, or FIDS as it were, so I looked after them and I did some work on that when I came home on leave in '57, thinking I was going back in October, but I never did.

[Part 2 0:27:26] Lee: Were you following the IGY on the radio?

Martin: On and off, yes. Life in Stanley in those days was fairly hectic anyway, and I had a daughter then as I progressed on after marriage, I had my peat to cut during the summer

period, so after work at night I used to go down to my peat bank and cut my peat, pack it up for drying out, and then there was always work to be done about the house, and life was that, and then I became one of the panel of local newsreaders, and every Friday evening you had a half an hour to give the local news, which I had to glean during the week, and that brought me again in contact with the community, I became a Sunday school teacher in the church. I did some restoration work on one or two of the glass windows which were broken which I replaced with clear glass 'cos there was no stained glass, and I coloured it and varnished it, and as far as I know it's still there [Laughter]. So, I entered the life; I tried to start Scouting there, and I went to see – the Governor then was Oswald Arthur, and I said 'I'd like to start Scouting here'. He said 'Yes', he said 'What I will allow you to do is if you can start Rover Scouts, the age of 17 upwards', he said, 'You can go ahead, providing you can find a local leader'. He said 'There's really not room for two organisations in Stanley', and I understood that. So of course I didn't, I couldn't find anybody to take over. There were one or two people who had been in the movement before, but I couldn't get them to move. Any road I had to go back in '91 to train the then Scouters of the group, and I spent six weeks there training them.

[Part 2 0:29:29] Lee: In Stanley?

Martin: In Stanley, yes.

[Part 2 0:29:30] Lee: Marvellous. So back in '54, '55 what was your house like in Stanley? Where were you living in fact?

Martin: Living in 36, John Street, which was (one, two, three), four rooms downstairs with a larder, and four bedrooms and a bathroom and a toilet, which was a large room with a toilet in one corner [laughs]. Yes, but it was a nice house, I rented it and the people to whom I rented it we've kept in touch with ever since. The parents are all dead of course, and now, the only person left now is the daughter, who was the younger of the children. Her brother, who was the next one in line, died last year, and the one elder than that, Ronald, he was in an accident with his lorry, it moved back and got him and he's paralysed from the waist down and he's a hospital case for the rest of his life – very sad. He was a farmer.

[Part 2 0:30:52] Lee: So you got to know two Governors in Stanley, you got to know...

Martin: I suppose I knew Miles Clifford and the one I did get to know was Oswald Arthur.

[Part 2 0:31:12] Lee: Tell me about him.

Martin: Well I could say a gentleman in as much that he was a very upright broad figure, white haired, always had a happy outlook on his life, he always recognised you, ready to speak, ready to how things were, and we invited him to the wedding and he came, and in those days we were invited, as being part of the Government set, to Government House do's, and that was the strangest thing as there was this one hour item that Beryl didn't like because it was *them* and *us*. There was a colonial set and the local staff. Now I reckon we steered what I thought was a middle path because I had community connections, and I had the

Government House connections, and so blend those together you could live in peace with all [chuckles].

[Part 2 0:32:24] Lee: Did you meet Mrs Clifford, Miles Clifford's wife?

Martin: No, no I didn't, no.

[Part 2 0:32:30] Lee: All right. Interesting character apparently ???[inaudible] There were one or two other things I wanted to ask you about if I may, when, after you'd left Port Lockroy they actually discontinued the met work didn't they? [overtalk]

Martin: I think mine was a privileged role, I think it was a softening for me because that's what I thought I was going to do, but then I was told I was going to do what I was sent to do, and I think that was a softy bit. But I enjoyed it, I went there to do it, and at least I had an opportunity to do my bit in met. So yes, no it certainly it stopped when I left.

[Part 2 0:33:20] Lee: So the readings you were taking were not that critical then, really?

Martin: Well, it was, I don't suppose in the collection of all the materials south it was probably insignificant. It might, I don't know, I did it, sent it off, and then people further up the line knew what they were doing with it, did what they wanted to do with it. You never knew whether it was of real value or not. But then you have to say 'Is that the same on all stations?' really. You can only observe and record what you've got on hand, and what you can see, and the instruments you've got with, and how it fits in with the rest of the pattern to provide better forecasts for the whaling fleets and other ships in the area it covers.

[Part 2 0:34:17] Lee: Did you get any sense of why they didn't continue with it?

Martin: No. I suppose I never gave it a thought. Once I left my concern was to get back to pick up the job so that I could continue with now first-hand knowledge, of having been there...

[Part 2 0:34:38] Lee: On the *Discovery*?

Martin: That's right, yes.

[Part 2 0:34:40] Lee: You were thwarted.

Martin: I was thwarted, yes. It was not to be [laughs].

[Part 2 0:34:46] Lee: I need to ask you about chess as well, I know we're darting about a bit but let's go back to Lockroy.

Martin: Oh yes.

[Part 2 0:34:53] Lee: Inter-base chess became something of a tradition for a while, didn't it?

Martin: It did, but I didn't play chess in those days, no. I didn't learn chess until I came home in '54, on the *Martiness*, a Danish charter vessel, which went from Stanley to Tilbury, non-stop, and the chief engineer there said to me 'Do you play chess?' I said 'No, but I'd like

to', he said 'Oh well we'll teach you', and so on the voyage home, 42 days of it, we had a session of chess every day, and that's how I picked up the chess business.

[Part 2 0:35:38] Lee: So whilst the games of chess were taking place via the radio with bases F and H from base A, this was all gobbledygook to you, was it?

Martin: Well, yes it was. I knew it was taking place, but I didn't follow it 'cos I didn't understand it [laughs].

[Part 2 0:35:57] Lee: You were a dab hand at Monopoly though?

Martin: Ah, well. Yes I had played Monopoly over the years, luck of the draw perhaps I was lucky yes and it's an enjoyable game, and whiles away some of the evening at spare times.

[Part 2 0:36:16] Lee: You were described by one of your compatriots as a bloated plurocrat (sic) when it came to Monopoly, in other words you were very good at it.

Martin: [Loud laughter] Oh well that's very interesting, I wonder who said that?

[Part 2 0:36:31] Lee: I'll tell you later.

Martin: Yes, that was very interesting, yes. I've always admired good things, so I suppose, yes. Part of my life was in the Fitzwilliam Museum so I grew up with great paintings, great treasures of art and craft, and I've always enjoyed that, as I did good music, although I can't play an instrument, only a gramophone.

[Part 2 0:37:03] Lee: Let me go back to my question about S.S. *Great Britain* because you're in the Falklands now, and this is in fact where you went to see her, because she was there for a while.

Martin: Yes indeed. She was in Sparrow Cove which was round the corner as it were from the main harbour, and occasionally we used to take a rowing boat out, and pull out and round to Sparrow Cove and get ashore and then because she lay in the cove there, part was under water and part wasn't, and occasionally we would climb one or two of the timbers, and admire the wreck I suppose, but it was something to be seen, it was a part of the history of the island, and so it was an adventure out again, a pulling boat raid occasion, in the company of somebody else we enjoyed doing that. I didn't see her come back, life carries you on and something that you don't see, but I knew she was being brought home.

[Part 2 0:38:19] Lee: Were you gobsmacked at the idea of bringing her back?

Martin: Well yes. How on Earth did they pick it up and bring it all the way, a feat in itself, it's incredible really but here it was it came and then some years later Beryl and I went to Bristol and went and had a look and we were amazed. We met one or two people that we knew of and about and so we went once or twice, but I haven't been for some time, and not since almost they completed it, but strange enough one of the people responsible from the architectural point of view, was a man called Tony Parr, he was a member of the service team on the Royal Research Ship *Discovery* when I was there, we had a strong band of volunteers

and he was a shipwright architect by profession, he's an Old Etonian so he knew what he was talking about, and he'd done a lot of work on that; I've been in touch with him over the years, he had friends in Fareham, that he was in close contact with. So yes. So I'm looking forward, hopefully next year I actually might see him again.

[Part 2 0:39:46] Lee: This is the BAS Club reunion?

Martin: Yes, yes, I hope I might make that one.

[Part 2 0:39:51] Lee: Some philosophical questions if I may. If you can't, if you don't want to answer don't worry I'll move on. You mentioned after becoming an orphan and becoming quite an independent soul quite early on and I wonder whether that was helpful later in life, when you found yourself working not only with FIDS but also with the Scout Association, you were dealing with difficult situations, harsh environments, isolation.

Martin: Well I think it did. Loneliness, if you call it loneliness, I don't suppose really hit me until my mother died, and although we were not all that close together because of the circumstances I was very fond of her when I was with her. And I suppose when she died, and I saw her almost before she died, and she was in one of these oxygen things, and as a young child then I was terrified of it, and I suppose then it hit me and I felt very much alone, and I suppose I cried, and I could still cry, and all through life I went on thinking 'Now I must get it', and strangely enough it was Beryl down below seemed as if she'd taken a part of that life – I never told her that. There was something I wanted, and I wanted to be with her, near her at times and I won't tell you all the little details how I waited and tried to see if she would be here and she wasn't, she was somewhere else. And that's how that attachment from me to her has been all my life, but through life, yes, I've had to learn that if you want something you have to strive for it, against odds, and my aunt was not in favour of me being a Scout for some reason or other, and I did too much Scouting while I was with her, and eventually we parted company and I went into digs when I could afford to do that. So that was the determination on my part I knew where I wanted to go – although I thought I knew where I wanted to go; I mean the war changed my life again, and that was an experience as any person who went through the war will tell you either at home or in the field of action, but then you're living day by day, and you're looking for the next day because you're actually alive to carry it on the next day on, and I think that's been something that's gone on all my life, even now I wake up in the morning and I say to myself 'What are you going to do today, Arthur, what are you going to achieve, what bits can you do?' And I stand and put together one of things, 'I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that.' At the end of the day I might say 'Did I achieve it?' If not, well I've done something, and I've achieved something same as today I'm doing some archive work and every day I add a bit more to it. So I achieve something every day, and I think that's one of the great things about life, you must have something to move you on all the time.

[Part 2 0:43:28] Lee: And can you tie back that drive in your life, back to the unfortunate circumstances of your early years? I mean in terms of the Antarctic in a strange way did the difficulties in your life actually steel you to cope with the Antarctic?

Martin: Well that was a part I think of living the life I lived. It lived the skills I picked up through life, it picked up those silly things that Scouts do as interests and the way of life in camp and working together as a group of people, and they really came to life in the world. Here you were in a place where you've got to cook for four other people and yourself and you had to make something of it, and it's got to be worth having, that's right and if I'd had to use that wretched surgical thing in that medical box I'd pray to God it'd never happen and thank goodness it didn't, that would have been a challenge as well. Whether I would have coped with it I s'pose I would have done 'cos you were there and there was no other alternative.

[Part 2 0:44:42] Lee: Exactly. It sounds as if your education might have been affected by your childhood as well as lack of parents and I wonder whether ...

Martin: There was a lack of education.

[Part 2 0:44:51] Lee: Lack of education.

Martin: And it's gone on through life. What I've done I've tried, I went to technical college and I thought I was, one of the things I wanted to do become a personal secretary, I had an ambition to be a personal secretary, so I took up shorthand and some typing, but I had another leisure in there I was a great folk dancer, and folk dancing and Scouting got in the way of education. But life is a bit of education too, and I've always tried to better myself, and that's why I've always accepted challenges when somebody said 'Will you do this?' I do it, because at the end of it I should have gained something, although I should have contributed, I should have gained something, and I think that is what has really taken me through life today. Today I still look for odd challenges. I've got things I want to do in the church. I stopped being a church warden, but I'm an elder as it were. They know if they want something for me to fix they only have to say 'Arthur'. Things I do, again with my skill of my writing and that and so I go through life that, there are challenges there and I do them, as I shall this week, I shall be writing Baptismal cards for eight godparents, the child, and the registers, etc. But I shan't see it but they'll all be there for the vicars to carry on.

[Part 2 0:46:26] Lee: So the fact that your education was incomplete, yet you still managed to become a key figure in the treasury both in Cambridge and in Stanley.

Martin: Yes, I must have had a mind for figures, or figures obviously interested me. Again it was a way of life, it earned me money to do the other things I wanted to do, but I enjoyed what I did, as I did the Fitzwilliam museum, but Scouting got in the way of that, it was weekend work occasionally see and that stopped me going to camp.

[Part 2 0:47:01] Lee: So the Scouting was your salvation and your downfall.

Martin: Well it was, both ways if you like, yes.

[Part 2 0:47:07] Lee: There were just five of you on the base that winter at Port Lockroy, and in those days no visits in winter so I wonder how you handled the isolation between the five of you?

Martin: I often think that when I say that it was a happy base, apart from that one incident which I told you about...

[Part 2 0:47:30] Lee: The slamming of the door.

Martin: The slamming of the door. We all had a job to do, and we all got on with it, and it seemed to take the day, and if you weren't doing that you were doing one of the other tasks of the day; if you were cook for the day you had your own work to do but you had to fill in the cooking business, and there was the other domestic things which was all part of life. So you were involved in things and then there was the respite where you listened to the music, or you wrote letters or other things and enjoyed the music. You played Monopoly or other board games. Strangely enough you did very little talking and sharing about individual background that I found. Coming out now looking back I should have known more about Steve, of Fred, of Geoff. I was asked to write the obituary for Geoff, and I had to search for that, so I actually got to know more about him and then I got in touch with his wife, didn't even know he was married. That was how close you were but you weren't close as a complete, you were close of five people in an active role in the maintenance and operation of a base, and I think that was it, and you made the best of it and enjoyed what you did.

[Part 2 0:49:06] Lee: So do you think you benefitted from the fact you had diverse backgrounds or was that irrelevant almost?

Martin: Well I think so, yes. As I said to you earlier that was five it's like a patrol of Scouts, each had something positive to contribute, and I'm sure in addition to the skills that they took in for the base work there were other skills that came to light such as my first aid 'n' my cooking skills. It made part of the life of base which kept it happy, yes.

[Part 2 0:49:47] Lee: Any swearing? Sometimes men holed up together?

Martin: Strangely enough very little. No. When you look today it's easy because life is full of it, but somehow it isn't, wasn't, perhaps that was why it was a happy base.

[Part 2 0:50:09] Lee: It was all a bit proper?

Martin: Yes, it was proper, people behaved as people and not as loud mouthed expressionists!  
[laughter]

[Part 2 0:50:22] Lee: There's one very proper occasion of course when you had the royal visit, and here's a photograph...

Martin: Ah that was in Stanley.

[Part 2 0:50:30] Lee: You've got the Duke of Edinburgh arriving at the public jetty with Oswald Arthur.

Martin: Yes, '57 I think it was, '56, '57.

[Part 2 0:50:38] Lee: Did you meet him – Prince Philip? Were you there?

Martin: Yes. He was doing that Southern Tour, of Commonwealth I think, and he put on his itinerary the Falkland Islands and a visit to Antarctica, and when he arrived everybody went mad, well they were driven to mad – children never waved Union Jacks before, and they were lined up in the street and told to shake their flags.

[Part 2 0:51:11] Lee: I wonder where they got them from?

Martin: Well, that's right, they'd never done it before, so it was a great experience for them. But yes, he had a great time when he was there, and everybody did. He visited FIDS office, and in true Naval tradition he knew where to look, he opened a cabinet, everything fell out as everything had been stuffed inside, he opened it, he said 'Oh, I thought so', laughed like a drain as he always would [laughs]. Yes.

[Part 2 0:51:44] Lee: You mentioned BAS Club committee which you were on for eight years, and going to some reunions and hoping to get to the next one. How important now is the BAS Club committee to you as a retired, long retired, Fid?

Martin: Well, I think – BAS Club remains the BAS Club, and I can't see the thing folding, it's a perpetual thing isn't it, whilst there are Antarctic bases, and there'll always be people who want to gather together. In those days I was working, and then I retired, and I lived in this part of the world, and I motored to Cambridge and back the same day, and people said 'You're crazy', and then the latter years when I'd retired I actually did start to go by train. But again I found it interesting work inasmuch that I questioned a number of things that were being said, and I did actually question the constitution.

[Part 2 0:52:56] Lee: What year was this roughly?

Martin: I can't remember whether it was, it must have been '86....

[Part 2 0:53:05] Lee: Mid-eighties.

Martin: Mid eighties I think, yes.

[Part 2 0:53:09] Lee: Yes, you questioned the constitution, which was a serious mistake wasn't it?

Martin: Yes, it was, and Peter said 'Well I think we should draft it' [laughter]. And so I drafted the constitution and it followed that earlier one, and I was of course delighted when I saw that they were going to look at the constitution again. But it's changed. BAS had changed then it developed on as you would expect it to do. I think it's doing a lot of good work. It's certainly helping to provide for the needs of others, and it may be shortly I might actually be making an approach because of one of the, FIDS office Stanley, who now lives there she's aged 70, has just had a stroke; lives alone and it might be that occasionally she may want a bit of support, but until we get an assessment of her condition later on we shan't know. And that's a good thing, it takes care of relatives, those who are not so fortunate.

[Part 2 0:54:24] Lee: Did you ever revolutionise the constitution or was it just a case of minor revision?

Martin: Well I looked at the constitution and when I saw it and I thought 'Well, some of its not relevant any more, it needs bringing up to date with where we are today', and so I took the old one and thought about it and re-hashed it, and then eventually went to committee and they put it to the annual meeting and it was accepted. So I made my little, I've made my mark!

[Part 2 0:55:05] Lee: Moved on. I can't ignore your MBE in 1991 even though it was not for polar services but for Scouting services.

Martin: Well it was Scouting and youth work and erm....

[Part 2 0:55:19] Lee: Sounds as though it came out of the blue rather?

Martin: Well it did, yes. Until I got the letter from the Prime Minister saying that I may recommend you for this would I accept, I hadn't the foggiest idea. I'd already got the Silver Wolf, which was the highest award by the Chief Scout in Scouting. I'd reached that and I didn't want it, whatever award I've had is not mine, it's what I care for the work of those that I've been in engaged with than actually doing the work face to face. The same with the MBE it's not mine, it belongs to those who I had the privilege to work with.

[Part 2 0:56:02] Lee: You were in the unique position of being able to compare one organisation with another; this is a slightly cheeky question but I think you'll get the drift. Was FIDS as organised in those days as the Scouting Association? Or was the reverse true? Which was a better as an organisation, was FIDS organised?

Martin: As far as I understood it, yes, it was well organised doing the job it had to do, and over the years that organisation has obviously changed, as it has in the movement that I belong to, and you look back and say 'My God, were some of those fundamentals gone?' Well actually they're there but in a different version, and the time, conditions, the language, the ethos. The ethos is there, but it's changed, it ripples more, and perhaps I suppose it's more appealing to young people. I say that because we had a time when the movement began to lose its momentum. It's now on the way up, it's growing four or five percent a year, back on the half million mark in this country, which can't be bad for a youth organisation these days.

[Part 2 0:57:30] Lee: When you moved from one organisation to the other in the 1950s, was one better run than the other?

Martin: No. There's a saying 'Once a Scout always a Scout', and that continues with me, the ethos, the purpose of living as a Scout and bound by the promise and the law we make as a boy, and I suppose that carried on through life and FIDS, because it took me and all I stood for with it, and perhaps I tried then to contribute me to that, and so that what I did perhaps bit of me rubbed off onto others they then perhaps understood me better, and I helped to understand them better, and so again it was a sharing, as it is today. Everybody I meet, and people say 'Oh, I see you're wearing a Scout badge', and I say 'Yes, were you?', 'Oh, long time ago', I say 'Well you still are, would you like to shake my left hand?' You see? You

can't forget it neither can they if they're honest, it stays there, it's a way of life, for betterment of the world in which we live.

[Part 2 0:58:55] Lee: Your other organisation is the church, and I wonder how you were able to fulfil your church going needs in your year in Port Lockroy, whether you had to put it on a back burner for a while or did you find a way?

Martin: The way I would say or to answer that is that it was probably in meditation, and there's the incident I told you where I thought I saw this vision of Christ in this optic phenomenon. Perhaps at times he was not there, but then you have to say 'In life sometimes he's never there is he?' But sometimes you feel close, but sometimes you know he's there but you can't reach, you can't see, but you know there's something there which is purposeful.

[Part 2 0:59:46] Lee: In a room with four other men with a generator running in the background all the time, was it sometimes difficult to reach that meditative state?

Martin: Difficult at times. I think difficult at times. I wonder what the next twenty years is going to bring, I shudder at times. But then I have faith in young people, and I think young people won't let us down. If they do it's on their blooming heads [laughter].

[Part 2 1:00:23] Lee: A lot of chaps I've talked to do regard their time in the Antarctic as being something very, very special in their lives, some of them would say 'It's the best years of their life', how do you rank it, those three or four years with FIDS?

Martin: It's an experience I welcomed, I shall never forget, and I said in an article I wrote for the magazine, I think I came out a better man than I went in, because I reinforced some of the values that I had and some of the ways I operate, and that was strengthened upon men of different varieties although I'd experienced that during the war but not perhaps quite so shut off as you are in the Antarctic with four other colleagues. So yes, it was a wonderful experience and one I've treasured and always happy to share with other people, because I think they should understand that people do actually still today go into places where things are vastly different, and you have to do a job, and you have to learn to live with other people, and get on and come back having made a contribution both into what you're doing and to yourself.

[Part 1 1:01:47] Lee: That's a good answer. I think we'll leave it there. Arthur, thank you.

Martin: Pleasure.

Interesting extracts:

- Early childhood and introduction to the Scouting movement. [Part 1 0:00:26]
- Wartime service in the Navy – and Scouting. [Part 1 0:06:07]
- End of war, and more Scouting work, leading to job on R.R.S. *Discovery*. [Part 1 0:09:14]

- Festival of Britain – man-hauling sledge along the Thames Embankment. [Part 1 0:11:58]
- Governor of Falkland Islands looks for volunteers for Antarctic. [Part 1 0:13:34]
- Life in the Falkland Islands in the early '50s. [Part 1 0:20:30]
- Description of Port Lockroy base hut. [Part 1 0:30:18]
- Taking met observations, and beautiful atmospheric phenomena. [Part 1 0:37:01]
- Clandestine expedition and attempt to spend night in an igloo. [Part 1 0:43:49]
- Scout 'Ambulance Badge' brings immediate promotion to base Medical Officer....leading to some embarrassing consultations! [Part 1 0:56:21]
- Descriptions of fellow base members, [Part 1 1:00:41]
- 'Arthur's teeth'. [Part 2 0:00:14]
- Tiddles, the cat. [Part 2 0:04:16]
- Homeless and jobless, but re-united with wife-to-be. [Part 2 0:17:20]
- Involvement with the Colonial Treasury. [Part 2 0:22:50]
- S.S. *Great Britain*. [Part 2 0:37:03]
- Reflections on how early life experiences guide one through later life. [Part 2 0:39:51]
- Duke of Edinburgh visits the Falkland Islands. [Part 2 0:50:30]
- Awarded the M.B.E. for services to Scouting. [Part 2 0:55:05]