



Interviewee: Peter Long

Profession/ Specialities: General dental practitioner

Date of the Interview: 2 February 2012

Location of interview: Interviewee's home

Interviewer: Malcolm Bishop

Recording equipment used: Zoom H4N Recorder, Rode Lavalier Microphones, Beyer M58 Microphones

Number of recordings: 11

Total length of recording: 1 hour 19 minutes 10 seconds

Access/ copyright restrictions: Copyright held by BDA

Summary of interview

01 – Family background – father's job at Claudius Ash. Childhood during WWII. Scholarship at public school, Mill Hill.

02 – School days at Mill Hill. Attendance at Medical Sixth Form.

03 – Reasons for choosing dentistry as a career.

04 – Dental student at Guy's. Role as resident house surgeon – work day, salary, other students.

05 – National service in RADC – training at Cambridge Military Hospital, posting on a troop ship and role making troops dentally fit for service in Malaysia. Discussion of equipment on ship – treadle drill, filling materials, anaesthetics. Story of having to use professional status to prevent Australian sergeant, who had had his jaw wired

after a fight, from being shipped out as he suffered from sea sickness. Trip with Fifth Destroyer Flotilla.

06 – End of National service at Shorncliffe, Hythe. Demobbed in 1958. Joining a general practice in Hertford. Discussion of why not possible to go back to hospital service. Buying practice off owner.

07 – Returning to hospital practice part time. Buying a house – discussion of obtaining mortgage as a dentist. Recruiting a partner for practice – story of accountant taking them to casino to see how the potential partner handled money. Professional network in Hertford. Type of patient in Hertford – rural town. Story of operating on a German Prisoner of War by fire light. Sterilisation in the practice. Recruiting a partner.

08 – Expansion of practice through partnerships. Recruiting hygienist in 1970s. Breakdown of practice income. Dental nurses – recruitment and career path.

09 – Development of practice – adding surgeries and sterilisation room. Role as vocational trainer. Discussion of advice given to trainees – importance of good communication with patients. Stories of confusion between dentist and patients. Mention of domiciliary visits. Discussion of the use of anaesthetics.

10 – Role as part time demonstrator in oral surgery. Discussion of secondary referrals. Out of hours scheme with other local dentists.

11 – Changes seen throughout professional career – equipment, CPD. Role in dentists support scheme.