

Bob Doughty

Oral History Interview – Summary

WLS005	Time-coded summary
0.00	Introductions. Bob Doughty (BD)'s grandparents were tram drivers in Stourbridge. When trams came to Worcester, they transferred to Worcester. Later grandfather became bus driver and grandmother bus conductor. Lived in St John's by cemetery. Names his grandfather and father, William Doughty and William Charles Doughty. William Charles and brother Eric were in 8 th Battalion, Worcester Regiment. Eric went to France as Expeditionary Force at start of WW2 but William Charles was prevented from going as he was a machinist, which was a reserved occupation.
3.06	BD's dad's first job was as carpenter building houses in Bath Road. He got a splinter which went septic and lost job. After this he went to MECO as a machinist. Approx 1934 and spent the next 47 years working there. Met BD's mum at tennis club. BD goes through his mother's family. Maternal grandmother was housekeeper to a doctor at Newnham. She had 4 children George (worked at MECO), Leonard (POW in Singapore), Hilda (married to Basil who fumigated ships in Valetta, Malta – they were part of the 'jet-set') and BD's grandmother (he doesn't name her).
06.26	BD born in 1938. Baptised in St Mary's church (now flats). His dad bought a house in Tunnel Hill. They were 'posh' as they had a cellar, a fold-away ironing board and upstairs toilet. Story about scrubbing the tiled hallway at 10 Arboretum Road [now talking about his grandmother's house?]. Describes this house. BD then talks about his grandmother's various houses. She moved from Newnham to Worcester and bought a shop near the Porcelain factory. She went bankrupt, sold up and moved to 44 Hill Avenue, Fort Royal Hill . BD says this house had a cellar with a tunnel to the cathedral. Recalls he and his brother exploring it.
10.11	Grandmother later rented 10 Aboretum Road and ran it as a boarding house. Main boarders were theatre performers. Theatricals congregated in Aboretum boarding houses and after performances they played cards and partied till late. BD recalls sleeping on armchairs while they partied around him. Story of the Good Fairy's tutu on the washing line. BD visited the MECO with dad but has no memories of this.
12.45	BD's school days. Went to school in Little London, in College House. Girls to 11 and boys to 8. Then he went to Tredennyke House (now a block of flats opposite Sunnyside school, Barbourne). Headmaster was the younger brother of headmaster of Kings. Decided to amalgamate the school with Kings so BD moved to Kings 1946/7 (approx).
14.54	After school, BD tells story of buying a car which got burnt out. Decided instead to get a motorbike which he could fix himself. Joined Worcester Auto Club (WAC). Says this 'made him'. Talks about happy times with club mates at WAC Perdiswell. Eventually became Secretary of WAC. Ran 'scrambles' (Moto Cross) and hill climbs. Also had dances and social events. Story about taking trainee nurses and midwives to dances. Story about a Guildhall dance (approx. 1960).
21.20	JL asks BD about photo of his dad at the MECO. BD names friends at the MECO. Jack Francis was a neighbour from Tunnel Hill. George Matthews later ran a shop at Dines Green. BD talks about long service rewards at the MECO. They got either a tea set from Porcelain or a Rolex watch. Talks about loyalty and integrity.

24.53	BD's dad was a welder at MECO. Became a specialist welder. MECO was taken over by Doughtys (no relation). Story of his dad visiting the Doughty HQ. They mistook him for George Doughty, the owner! BD's dad was a bandsman with the Regiment. Later played in the RA's Malvern Silver Band. Played a part in Trooping of the Colour in mid 90s. Story about this.
29.00	BD's dad was in the Home Guard (JL and BD looking at a photo of him). His war job was at MECO (he couldn't move jobs) and was part of Home Guard. JL asks what his dad told him of the day the MECO was bombed. BD found this information later in life (he has no memory of the time – too young). BD's dad wrote a report which BD reads out. Oct 3 rd . Writes of 2 bombs landing, 7 killed, 63 injured. Gives address. Report written for Home Guard.
33.50	BD's opinions on the bombing. He believes the bomber was planning to bomb the railway bridge (across Severn). BD has researched the bomber. Thinks it came from Totenkopf squadron (shuffling noise as he looks for records which he reads out). For Oct 3 rd , mentions single bomber raids on Worcester and other places. Thinks that the Junkers was shot down on return across Channel. BD believes bomber was too low to hit railway bridge so hit MECO, a mile away, instead. BD believes the MECO was hit by accident.
38.45	JL asks about the gunner. BD believes he randomly straffed the ground. BD describes the plane's return route. BD thinks it was this crew's first raid, they were an inexperienced crew.
41.00	Brief mention of other relatives out in Singapore and Valetta in war. They didn't talk about their experiences.
	Interview Ends