

## Talk About Miracles! Greta Major's Story

Transcription of tape recordings of conversations between Eliza Euphemia (Greta) and John Major, mother and son.

### [Tape 1, side 1]

**JM** This is a recording on the **20 Nov 2003**, in Mum's room at Kilbirnie [Rita Angus Rest Home], and we're talking about the McChesney family in Scotland before they came to NZ, and about the town of Dailly. Tell us a little about those people, Mum.

**EEM** My father left Dailly – he was brought up in Dailly –

**JM** That's in Scotland?

**EEM** In Scotland, and Margaret and Laurence have just been there and are so excited about it all. My grandfather was a coal... – it was coal mines.

....

**JM** Tell us about your father.

**EEM** I can remember him as a white-haired gentleman, and I remember the day of his funeral in 1920, he was 77.

....

**JM** Can you remember anything about the funeral service and the events around that time, Mum?

**EEM** Yes, I remember that Aunt Mary, who was my mother's sister, she was a very caring lady and she was very good to me. And Tom and I were there and I remember we sat on little stools and she gave us ice cream – the earliest time I remember ice creams. Some time after my father died, my mother went for a holiday. I have a feeling that I must have been about 12 or 13 – I was old enough to be able to pick apples, so it must have been a wee bit older than that ... and while I was there (Aunt Susy lived at Stoke, Nelson) – and I have visited, two years ago I visited her brother and his wife, Bob Robinson at Stoke and had a wonderful time. I always felt that I wanted to have link with this family, and so it was arranged that I went down for a weekend and they received me absolutely wonderfully.

**JM** Let's just go back a little: when you were about 12 or 13 you were able to pick apples, and your mother had gone for a holiday to Nelson, did you go with her?

**EEM** No, Tom and I; not Mum.

**JM** The two of you went together .

**EEM** I think she might have gone overseas somewhere.

**JM** OK, so the two of you went. And how did you go from Invercargill?

**EEM** Newman's bus.

**JM** All the way from Invercargill to Nelson?

**EEM** Yes.

**JM** Do you remember anything about that journey?

**EEM** Well, it seemed a long journey.

**JM** Did you stop off somewhere along the way and stay overnight?

**EEM** Well, I think we did.

**JM** Probably at Christchurch.

**EEM** Yes. And then we were on the Newman's bus, and I remember we were both very car sick. It was a wonderful place to go, and I used to pick apples because they had a huge orchard. And they live now on the same land.

**JM** Did you have a big bag on the front that you would put the apples into?

**EEM** Yes, that's right.

**JM** So how long did you stay there at Nelson?

**EEM** We stayed there for six weeks.

**JM** Did you do schooling there? Was it the school holidays, or what was it?

**EEM** Well, it possibly was. It could have been summer time when apples were ripe.

**JM** And so did you then go back to Invercargill?

**EEM** And then we went back to Invercargill, back home. That was for a holiday, but Aunt Susy -- she had an elderly husband, too, and he was very, very kind to me. He paid me for picking apples. And Aunt Susy said, 'Any time you're welcome to come up here, and we would be very, very pleased to have you.' And so later on that's what happened.

**JM** So about what age were you when you went to live in Nelson with Aunt Susy? About what age?

**EEM** Well, I think I must have been older than 14.

**JM** Had you left school?

**EEM** Seventeen was when I really went -- 73 years ago.

**JM** When you went...?

**EEM** When I left Invercargill.

**JM** And went to ...?

**EEM** Went to Aunt Susy's, cause they always said there was a welcome.

**JM** And you went up on the Newman's bus again?

**EEM** They knew the circumstances of -- of the years.

**JM** And did you get on a Newman's bus when you went up?

**EEM** No, it was all arranged.

**JM** You told me you stopped in Christchurch and you remember being in Cathedral Square and you had a cardigan with a hole in it. What was that all about?

**EEM** Oh yes. Well that was Remembrance Day, I always remember every Remembrance Day.

**JM** And you were 17?

**EEM** I was 17.

**JM** So we could work out what year that was.

**EEM** And that was all – it was quite all right for me to go at 17. If I had been 16 I would have been in ....

**JM** Mum, tell us a bit about what you mean when you say ‘That was all arranged’. Somebody must have organised your transport and money for you to travel. Tell us about that.

**EEM** Actually, Major and Mrs Montgomery were the Salvation Army officers at Invercargill, and they knew some of the circumstances, although since then it’s all been forgiven, but they knew how I was being treated, and they took me to the Public Trust and Mr Newsome – they consented because they knew the bruises and so on that I had were caused because of – well, ill-treatment, I suppose. Tom was all right; nothing ever happened to Tom, but I was the one that – seemingly there was something that caused [telephone rings!]....

**JM** Let’s go back to 1920 something (**EEM** ’30. **JM** 1930 was it? **EEM** Yes.) You’re 17 years of age, and the Public Trust makes arrangements for you to have money early from the money that your father had set aside for you.... OK, and you end up in Stoke....

**EEM** No. I went to ... yes, but on the way up that’s quite....

**JM** We talked about that at Christchurch. Do you want to say more about on the way up?

**EEM** I stayed at Matura the first night.

**JM** Oh, well tell us a bit about that.

**EEM** Yes, well my step-father – he knew all about these arrangements, and I remember Mrs Montgomery and a friend went and bought whole rigout of clothes, some of them I didn’t know how to put them on, like bras I’d never worn, and I had everything new. And mentioning just about that cardigan – but that’s when we get to Christchurch. I stayed the night – it was all arranged – there were Salvation Army officers in Matura.

**JM** Do you know who that was?

**EEM** Waterhouse.

**JM** Waterhouse, OK.

**EEM** Captain Waterhouse.

**JM** OK, so you stayed at Matura, and then what happened?

**EEM** My [step-]father he didn’t take me up. He arranged for one of his workmates to take me up in the car. And the next morning I got the train from Matura to go to Christchurch. And I stayed with officers there, Brigadier Vera Wood and, above all, Captain Hope Hart. And that was remarkable, because she married Major Montgomery later on. And the next morning I went to send a telegram – or going to the Post Office in the Square and that’s when I realised there was a hole in this cardigan. It was something I really needed, but somehow I lost it. In all the excitement from Matura to Christchurch when I said goodbye to the people I handed over my purse. However, they rang the people in Christchurch and it was recovered.

**JM** It followed you up. And it had your money in it and all?

**EEM** Yes. Tickets and everything.

**JM** How long did you stay in Christchurch for?

**EEM** Well, I went up again.

**JM** From Christchurch to Stoke.

**EEM** Yes. And they didn't know I was coming. But the amazing thing how God went before.... I knocked on the door and here I was.

**JM** This is at your Aunty Susy's place?

**EEM** At Aunty Susy's at Stoke – expecting a great welcome. The next morning she said, 'Well, I'll take you in to the Salvation Army tomorrow and make arrangements for you going back to Invercargill. And, fortunately, Brigadier and Mrs Briddock were wonderful officers at Nelson, and we went there, Aunty Susy drove to the quarters, and I stayed in the car – and I'd only been converted about six months, but I prayed as I don't think I'd ever prayed before – and she came out and she said they had some friends and the wife had had a little bit of a breakdown and they needed just company in the house, not to do heavy work, and this happened to be on a farm, to ?, the Glen. They said I'd go there for a few weeks and then I'd go back home, but I fitted in so wonderfully, and I went to the corps at Nelson.

**JM** How long did you stay in Nelson at that period, then?

**EEM** Well, till January, the shift – that was November. And Montgomery's got appointed to Wellington City from Invercargill.... I didn't ask – well, I used to write to them, but then I just decided to go up to stay with them, to Wellington.

**JM** So you came over on the boat?

**EEM** Yes. Well my first uniform at Nelson was just a piece of – like a feeder with tapes on and a white – that was my first uniform.

**JM** So you wore that.

**EEM** I wore that in Nelson, and seemingly I must have fitted in for that short time because the band came to the wharf – you went by boat.

**JM** The band came to see you off?

**EEM** Yes, the band came to see me off. And I can see some of them now: Bandmaster Anderson.... And they came to see me off and gave me a great send-off.

**JM** And you were the only one going?

**EEM** Yes. And no arrangements made; I was just going.

**JM** Did the Montgomery's know you were coming?

**EEM** No. And when I arrived, Mrs Montgomery was there to meet me.

**JM** So she must have known you were coming.

**EEM** Yes, I think I must have written and told her that I was just going for a holiday. And then we went over just opposite where you come out of the boat -- to the rest room – we went and sat over in the rest room for about an hour just to find out what was what and to sort things out, so decided I would go home with them to their place in Rugby Street, 85.

**JM** So you actually went to their house then?

**EEM** Yes.

**JM** But it was only for a holiday to start with?

**EEM** Oh yes, it was just for a holiday to start with. And I enjoyed it and I went to Digby's typing school because the money could come from the Public Trust, and also to learn music not very far from where David lives now. Then time went on and time went on.

**JM** Were you hearing anything from Invercargill?

**EEM** No, not a sound. Never made any attempt to bring me home. So God was in control..... And then it was decided I go to stay at the hostel in Boulcott Street, the girls' hostel, so I was there for a very short time because I used to walk down from there to Rugby Street – which is a long way – every day to see them, so they thought it's not much use this happening. So I eventually lived with them in Rugby Street – I was part of the family.

**JM** Who else lived in the house at that time?

**EEM** Nesta.

**JM** And how old would you have been about that time? Is this about your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday?

**EEM** Yes. I'm just thinking: before that was the open-air – we didn't put that bit in.

**JM** Tell us about the open-air.

**EEM** Invercargill. And, of course, the commencement of it all is amazing. There was an open-air [meeting] at our corner – at the corner of Spey and Deveron streets.

**JM** And this is going back to when you were still living in Invercargill.

**EEM** This is prior to my leaving. They were playing in the band and then Major Montgomery who was very zealous, he called on all the homes and he knocked on our door, and my mother – and gave an invitation to come to a meeting. And next Sunday morning, my mother took us, Tom and I, to the Salvation Army. That was the first time. So really when you look back, she was the commencement really. That was the start of my Army -- .

**JM** And so did you keep going with your mother, or what happened then?

**EEM** Yes, and I became a corps cadet but half the time my clothes were locked away so that at the last minute I couldn't go. And I used to work; the last thing I did was dig up a lawn, so it was quite heavy work.

**JM** What did you dig the lawn up for?

**EEM** Oh Mum wanted it for a garden.... We went for a few months and I got converted, gave my heart to the Lord, and I well remember 'He was wounded for our transgressions', that was the message that was read to me. And then on Anzac Day 1929 or the day after Anzac Day I was enrolled and that was quite an event.

**JM** Did your mother come for that occasion?

**EEM** Yes, they pleaded with her to come, and right up to the moment I was going to be enrolled she said 'she's not going to be enrolled'; there was quite a to do, and Miss Fell[?] who was one of the soldiers, and Mrs Richards, Phyllis Richards's mother, a godly lady, and she said, 'Mrs Randle, she's quite worthy of being enrolled'. And so I was enrolled.

**JM** And your mother was there for that?

**EEM** Yes, and Tom. So really she took us to the Army. So that was in '29 – might have been '30 – my Articles of War is somewhere.

**JM** Now it wasn't long after that that you went off to the training college, and a whole lot of things happened in the meantime. You got enrolled, you went to Stoke, you then came over to Wellington staying at Rugby Street, and then went to the hostel, and came back to Rugby Street.

**EEM** My 21<sup>st</sup> birthday I had – Dad had arranged that – I had that in Dunedin with his parents.

**JM** So you went back to Dunedin for that.

**EEM** Yes, amazing.... there's a photo somewhere in one of the books.

**JM** So you had a 21<sup>st</sup> but your mother didn't come to that?

**EEM** No.

**JM** But your step-father was there.

**EEM** Yes. And then I must have come back to Wellington.

**JM** That must have been in January 1934. So what happened between the time of your coming back from Dunedin and getting into college?

**EEM** Well, I went back to Wellington to get ready for college; I was accepted as a candidate and we went to college in March 1934.

**JM** And do you remember meeting Dad early in the piece there in the training college?

**EEM** Oh yes, that's where I met Dad. We were in the college, then later on they were going to Miramar – the men cadets... we were going to Kilbirnie.

**JM** So you crossed in the tunnel?

**EEM** Yes, and you're not supposed to talk, but he said, 'Good morning, cadet' to me. And that was the start. And then later on we had a furlough and we had some time off and we went to Stratford and he gave me my engagement ring.

**JM** Did you meet his mum and dad then?

**EEM** Oh yes, that's what we went for – met the family.

**[Tape 1, side 2 continued]**

12 December 2003; same place]

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**JM** Mum's going to pick up the story with some things she's remembered before college, going into college, some interesting stuff about going to stay at the People's Palace.

**EEM** It was a big step and I was very excited about going to the college, and Bro. Norman Jackson at Wellington City made me – well I suppose you would call it a glory box, my things were all in that, and I had a farewell at Wellington City, and then we went to Hastings; I was only there a few weeks – Montgomerys were appointed there in January. I went with them. I certainly felt as if I really – I did belong to the family then.

**JM** So you're in Hastings in early 1934, say February. So how did you get down to the college?

**EEM** We were in Hastings Corps and I enjoyed there just a week or two. Then when it came to leaving for the college I remember I was all packed up and towards the end I was feeling sad at the thought of leaving the Montgomerys. I was just about ready to go -- the day before -- and Monty said, 'Oh mum will come with you'. 'Mum' was Mrs Major Ruby Montgomery (**JM** the first Mrs Montgomery). She belonged to the famous Hewitt family from Wellington City -- Envoy Hewitt, he was her father and he attended the funeral of the Founder to represent New Zealand.

However, we stayed at the Palace at night before we went to the college -- straight from the train we went to the Palace and got settled in and when it came to breakfast time -- I suppose the anticipation of going to the college that day in the afternoon with Cadet Ann Cunningham who was a special friend of mine, and we were going to climb the steps to go to this wonderful place in Aro Street. But, however, this is the breakfast time and they brought my breakfast... to bed and I was so nervous about the thought of everything happening that day that I remember well that I dropped the tray and everything broke, and so that was not a very good start.

However, in the afternoon both Ann and I marched -- and we were met at the top of the stairs by Brigadier Nellie Smith, and she was a wonderful person. In the Army in those days there were two friends who lived together: Brigadier Birks and Major Nellie Smith. They were very opposite to each other but they were great friends. However, we were taken into the office and initiated in, and then went to our little cubicles.... We didn't have any roofs on our cubicles and you hear the next person almost breathing. That's where I started off my training college days.

**JM** Tell us a little bit about the staff of the training college.

**EEM** There was Captain Jessie Gower, and she was just a little short lady. I remember we were only allowed so long to have our baths and she would knock on my door that it was time up, and I said, 'Well I've got more to wash than them'. We had open-airs. We were only in college for 12 months and we soldiered at Kilbirnie ....

**JM** What about your training principal, who was that?

**EEM** Our principal was Colonel Albert Orsborn, and as we sat in the lecture hall we could almost feel his eyes just piercing us. And Captain Pallant was the cook. And Major Laurie Lindsay -- he was on the staff.

We had quite different events from time to time, and at Self Denial time everybody would do something to create funds. I had a little bit of extra money in those days and I bought some packets of dried peas and we boiled them, or I must have boiled them, and when we sat down to have peas -- I don't know what we had them on but peas were one part of the meal -- and I asked Brigadier Birks to pray the grace, and she prayed, 'Lord, keep us from any ill effects!' -- 'cause they weren't soft enough.

And we used to go to all sorts of places -- Brooklyn, and I was very humbled one day when I just wasn't too well and they put a few pence for me to tram up to Brooklyn because the doctor said I'd better not climb the hill, and putting this money on my desk was a very humbling experience.

**JM** Now you were in training college for 12 months, you were commissioned, where were you sent to for your first appointment?

**EEM** I didn't say about I had an open-air on my own. Talking about Kilbirnie: Rodrigo Road is one of the roads where the famous – they were famous and they would be famous today in the archives – was Bro. and Sis. Glover, and they had a very nice home there and I had got somebody to make a stick with a board on the top with a text on it, and I had an open-air all by myself – went through the whole procedure. That was outside their home in Rodrigo Road. That was part of the training.

**JM** So it came to your commissioning. Where did they send you to?

**EEM** Mrs Montgomery came down for the commissioning. We were only 10 months in college, and we went out with high-necked uniforms with yellow trimmings as lieutenants. And I was stationed at Pahiatua, my first corps appointment.

**JM** And who was with you?

**EEM** Captain Eva Legge was a lovely person.

**JM** How long were you at Pahiatua for?

**EEM** We were there two years.... The butcher used to give us on Saturday morning a roast free for the weekend. But we used to bike all around. For Harvest Festival Eva and I pushed a handcart all the way from Pahiatua to Mangatainoka, which is about five miles, receiving vegetables as we went on the way, in high-necked uniforms, in March. And there was a Bro. Fulford, he wasn't just 100% in his mind but he wrote on it 'Harvest Festival. Your vegetables or money are very much appreciated'. Then we turned round after we had a whole day there and we had a meal... and we pushed them just going along the road like a car – not too many cars at that time. But that was Pahiatua.

**JM** After Pahiatua what happened then?

**EEM** Well actually there was an exciting time: our sergeant-major... there was a murder.

**JM** Was he responsible for the murder?

**EEM** Yes. His name was Simes, Manley Simes.

**JM** And that happened while you were there?

**EEM** Yes.

**JM** So did he go off to prison?

**EEM** We had to go to Palmerston North court to witness for him.

There were some lovely folk at Pahiatua. I can remember the baker in the town was very good to us. We used to do shop-to-shop collecting, and go to schools. Dr Paterson was the doctor of the town. And there were very fine people named Bauckham there, Denis Bauckham was the only son and they were very, very good to the Army.... Then there was another unusual family... Swanns. And the dear old souls, they reminded me of Waianiwa where we lived and the little families there. Now at a certain time we got farewell orders.

They used to write on the board on the main street what was on – different things, and the green pea supper we had to raise funds and that was written on the board.... Then I got farewell orders and went to Waipukurau.

**JM** Tell us a little bit about the Waipukurau appointment.



**EEM** I remember we went up by train and got off at the station and wondered what kind of a place this was. This is where Captain Kia Ora Tyler was my officer, a very, very fine woman she was. She was a teacher before she became an officer, and Mrs Montgomery was very delighted when Mara – there were two sisters but one was as different as the other and that was Kia Ora, but this is Mara Tyler, her father was a wonderful man in Carterton.

However, I had a very happy time in Waipukurau, there was a large flood. There was a model T car in the garage that we used to take out sometimes -- it belonged to the corps – and the flood just about washed that away.

There was a wonderful case of conversion there with Bro. Black. He was a drover. Drovers in those days were just very rough people, but when he got converted he was a very mellowed man and he lived on his own just down from the quarters. And he got into uniform and he really was a wonderful help to the corps.

And then we had people opposite that, and it's strange how things work out, a large family and we just about wore a track down to their place, like happens today when people make a bit of a nuisance of themselves. However, this lady had quite a large family and I couldn't get over the fact that Randle up in Hastings had one of these children on his staff, Bill Giddins, Bill remembered the days when we used to visit them.

**JM** You had a model T car in the corps, but you bought a car of your own somewhere in there.

**EEM** Yes, well .however, Mrs Montgomery came for a holiday one day and I was going to buy a car and it was a baby Ford, I can see it now – grey, brand new, and I remember driving it out of the garage where we bought it in the main street, and it was a wonderful help to us. Mrs Montgomery and I came to some arrangement that Monty's had an old car and Monty was quite furious about all this. We did some negotiating about their car when I got mine.

**JM** So you got them another car as well, or something?

**EEM** Yes, something like that.

**JM** Do you have any idea how much you paid for your car, do you remember?

**EEM** I don't remember. It wasn't much though. I had the money in the bank. Little did I know that my father had – there was money when I left Invercargill all expenses were paid through the Public Trust. All I needed to do was to go to the Public Trust and get money.

**JM** Was it unusual for an officer in those days to go and buy a new car?

**EEM** Nobody had cars. While I was at Waipukurau, Elliott my husband to be was stationed at Dannevirke, and it was with the thought that we were going to get married in a year or so that I bought the car. And he came up and drove the car the day I left Waipukurau to get married.

**JM** Where was the wedding held?

**EEM** Wellington City.... It is sixty six years since the wedding on 29<sup>th</sup> of this month [December]. Major and Mrs Montgomery, they conducted the wedding, and Envoy Hewitt, he was the main speaker... his speech was a wonderful speech.

**JM** After you were married, what was your next appointment?

**EEM** Before we were married Elliott took me to Stratford to meet his parents, and they were lovely folk, but very, very humble folk. Elliott's father was a very, very humble man but he and I got on so wonderfully. And I used to speak about his... boots[?]

....

**JM** Did they all come to your wedding at Wellington City?

**EEM** Oh yes. And the ladies of the corps, they prepared the breakfast in the junior hall. I can see it now as if it was yesterday. And people like Mrs Judd and Mrs Dobson, Mrs Scotney and the Jacksons, all the different families, and it .... **[End of side 1].**

**[Tape 1, side 2]** There were soldiers named Muirhead at Karori [Corps] and Elliott had arranged that we stay there for the first few days at Ngaio, and with all the arrangements neither of us thought of taking any food with us. So the only thing in the little ice box was an egg, and I remember this egg that I boiled for the two of us. That was our first honeymoon meal. And Elliott went to have a rest and he got cramp in his leg, on the couch, and I thought I had a cripple for life – however he kept going. And then in a week or two we had to go to our new appointment, which was Marton. Marton was a very lovely little town. We packed up the little car and stayed the night in Karori at the Thompsons'....

**JM** So there we are, you're in Marton now, you're having a great time in this little corps.

**EEM** Well actually Marton was a bad start really. I didn't mention that when I was at Waipukurau I developed peritonitis six weeks before we were married, and I remember Elliott came to see me and brought a big vase of beautiful red tulips. There was no thought of putting the wedding off but seemingly that's what the doctors felt would have been wise.

So the first person in the house at Marton was the doctor.... The doctor said about going to hospital, Wanganui Hospital, which was quite a distance away, and I said no I didn't want to go, but it was just the reaction of having the operation previously. And the doctor said, 'Do you want to die?', and I said, 'No I just married, I don't want to die.' When I got to the hospital..., however I did recover from that, so that was my first start. Elliott had to unpack our boxes and set up.

That was in January, and the next January John Elliott Major was born, in '39, and that was a very joyous occasion.... Elliott was always very, very keen on poultry and we had some Red Orpingtons.... It was a lovely start.

**JM** How long were you in Marton then?

**EEM** We were in Marton.... We were very excited about the corps there, and the Cummings, Rev. and Mrs Cummings, the Methodist minister, they were very kind to us. We couldn't go away anywhere for Christmas holidays so Elliott papered the bedrooms, and I could just watch it.

Then our next appointment was Kilbirnie. You [John] were 16 months. And we had come in contact with a friend of Dad's, Kaha Armstrong, and he offered to come and stay in the quarters in Yule Street, and the day that I was going to the hospital, the day that Peter was to be born, John was just at the stage of, if the gate was open, going for a walk around.

**JM** Somehow or another, Dad was out visiting somewhere and did I go wandering off up the street?

**EEM** Yes, when he came home I said, 'Oh you'll have to go and find John', and I really should have been in hospital by this time, and Miriam was the girl that lived with us, she was just 16, but she helped to look after John....

**JM** Where did Dad find me?

**EEM** Just around the street.... So we finally at 7 o'clock at night we went off to the hospital – Kensington Street, Salvation Army.

**JM** Dad took you in the car?

**EEM** Yes, and when Dad was backing out he nearly banged into the fence, because the doctor had told him that they would do everything they could for me but they didn't think there'd be any chance for the baby, because Peter was a breech case. Matron Evelyn Berry and all the staff were called in because it was a breech birth.... Fortunately the baby arrived [safely] and the day after, Colonel Grattan, the Chief Secretary, came and I think the Commissioner came, a new commissioner, and he took him into the nursery and said, 'I'll introduce you to the youngest major in the Army', and here was Peter quite well and I was doing all right.

**JM** So that must have been in 1940.

**EEM** Yes, it was....

**JM** Now there's something you've just remembered back a bit. Tell us about that.

**EEM** .... When John was 9 months old... I decided and said to Dad, 'We're going to Invercargill for a few days', because I wanted to go to show – I always felt that there was a great meaning in the word 'forgiveness', and that was the reason for going down: to really speak to – to be there with my mother, and know in my own heart to be forgiven for leaving when I did.

And we went to Invercargill – we went down by train – Elliott and I and John the baby, and so very proud to be able to take John.... And we stayed for a few days. We had a pretty hectic time; we had to more or less lock the door or shut the door to have a little bit of peace and quietness. And then when we went to leave, I remember I was so pleased to get on the train that I went up and kissed Elliott goodbye, forgetting that he was going to come in behind me, and we were so relieved to get on that train.

**JM** Why were you relieved? Was it a difficult visit, do you think?

**EEM** It was a rather difficult visit. But Mum was very proud of the baby, of course, and all the neighbours knew: Greta's brought the baby.... And in my mind, I've always felt it had been fixed as far as I was concerned.

**JM** Now that was the house in Spey and Deveron streets. Did you stay there?

**EEM** Yes, we stayed in it – I think we did stay in the house. We did! And we were very relieved to get on that train, but it was worth going down. And then, later on, it was just wonderful – it was forgiveness again – Mum and Tom they came and stayed with us in Palmerston North.

**JM** Didn't they also stay with us in Devonport?...

**EEM** Yes, Devonport, that's right, and Tom, they came.... There is a photo in the box of photos of Mum at Palmerston North, Russell Street, with a lovely

rhododendron, that lovely-smelling one,... and John sitting in the push-chair. So as far as I – and I think Mum felt the same – that all was forgiven.

And then Aunt Susy also. Now that was wonderful, 'cause when I first went to Nelson the idea that her husband... he was very fond of me and I worked there on the orchard for quite a while picking apples; I really had a wonderful time. Then she always said if any time you find it too difficult at home you can always come – so that was where I was making for. But when she knew that I was going to the Army, I stayed one night and then the next morning she said, 'We're going in to see the officers to arrange about you going back'.

Well, I was only two months' converted, but I prayed as I'd never prayed before, and it was wonderful that the officer, Brigadier Briddock, a wonderful man, he had some friends, Salvationists, and the lady had had a first child. She'd had a bit of a breakdown, not serious, but needed company, so that's where I went. And the result of that was that the – they had a farm, of course I didn't have the faintest what turkeys were like or what was male and what was female or anything like that.

The thing was they had two shepherds on the farm and one was Charlie Glendinning, and very, very rough in those days, both of them, and they used to tease the life out of me, I remember. But, however, along the way later on, Charlie got converted and we went – this is quite a few years after this – and one morning while we were stationed at Levin Brigadier Bicknell was leading the meeting and I wasn't able to go that morning for some reason, and Dad said, 'Oh, I'm sorry you weren't at the meeting this morning. This man, Charlie Glendinning, gave a wonderful testimony – it was through your living and the way you talked in Nelson that led him to give his life to the Lord. And he became... the Trade Secretary.... So it was just marvellous what the influence --.

**JM** It's almost about the way being prepared for you....

**EEM** Absolutely. Right from the – that's what it makes me feel that the Lord must have been in all this. I've often talked about the plan that we read about in Leviticus, and I'm quite certain, because my first recollection of the First Church was when I was just a boarder... I do remember – and I was treated as one of the youngest one in the boarding school [Melrose College, Invercargill].

**JM** You actually stayed there at the school?

**EEM** You had to dress for dinner and that kind of thing, and one or two of the girls were responsible to see that I was ready for tea. It was quite a high, well, we'd call it high – it was the Presbyterian Church – I think the First Church was Presbyterian. And then on weekends I used to go out to Aunt Nellie and Aunt Mary, Aunt Mary was wonderful.... My mother must have been away, must have gone on a trip or something, that was why – after my father died, he died in 1920.

**JM** In 1920, when you were seven.

**EEM** Yes, when I was seven. Well, I must have gone to this college/school then into the boarding place. Because I well remember getting measured up for a purple velvet dress....

But I used to go out for the weekends, and I remember one day the frost... and they had wood gratings right round to the gate, and I remember I was just going off to get the train and I slipped and fell. But Aunt Nellie – if only they had told me something about my beginnings but nobody – Uncle Jack, who was my mother's only brother,

and I visited them when we lived in Invercargill and very friendly he and Aunty Bessy and they invited me to afternoon tea several times, but nobody ever said that they were so proud – this is after I had been as an officer, of course, and had the family – so if only some of these people – there was Tom and Jack, Tom lived in Yarrow Street, Uncle Tom, they were Wainwrights....

**JM** Now we're in Feilding, 1940.

**EEM** I said about Mum and Tom, that was 1940, they came to the exhibition here in Kilbirnie. And Peter was born, and Mum brought me a lovely – really she couldn't do enough for me – a lovely blue Doulton plate.... And we left the very best of friends. Then Jim dies, of course.

**JM** What year did Jim die?

**EEM** '43.

**JM** Where were you stationed when Jim died?

**EEM** Devonport, I think.

**JM** After you were at Feilding, where did you go to next?

**EEM** We had a very happy time at Feilding, We went to Feilding three months after Peter was born. We got farewell orders because there was some officer who wanted to go to Kilbirnie. Feilding was a very large corps in those days. Herb Dewe, we made him the sergeant-major, he's a very fine figure, had the Order of the Founder. He was the mayor of the town. And then there was Tremain.... They were all there; we had a very good time, but I unfortunately had very bad sinuses at that time.

When Peter was just a little boy I had Bowen Street Hospital and Dad went temporarily to the training college and had Peter with him while I was recuperating.

**JM** And where did I go?

**EEM** Feilding, Mrs Harford, Aunty Dolly, she looked after you; she was a very lovely, lovely lady. Actually, Alf Harford... there is a relationship with our family through the Brains.... From Feilding I had this very serious operation in Bowen Street... and then after that we had a little bit of a break somewhere.

**JM** Did you go to Raumati at that stage?

**EEM** We went to Raumati. We had bought this lovely place when we were stationed at Kilbirnie.

**JM** Now this was at Rosetta Road.

**EEM** Yes, with the idea that we would have somewhere [to have] a break, just to have a little rest, and we enjoyed that very well. And then of interest, when the Korean Smiths came back to New Zealand – we let it from time to time – when the Korean Smiths came back with their family, about that time '44 or 5, they had nowhere to go, and we let them have the [house] until the day almost that he died – always very, very grateful and we were great friends.

**JM** Now after then you were at Raumati you then went to Devonport. Is that right?

**EEM** Yes. I think we must have stayed at Raumati for a wee bit.

**JM** And you went to Devonport, and Eric Bridle was one of the people in the corps there. Do you remember that.

**EEM** Oh yes. This fine young man, well dressed, wandered into the meeting, and we all got very friendly and wanted to know where he lived, and he had been going to a church but made no decision. I can see him now – he had a beautiful tweed coat on, flecked coat – and Dad spoke to him after he had been there – and dear old Eric, he never forgot that, and he became converted and became a great officer.... Dad always took a great interest in young people,... he was a great man for talking to people over the table with a lot of these people, discussing things over the table....

Devonport was a great experience, and a few devastating – that's where we had Alice Mudgway, we had her as a helper in the house. She was a wonderful Salvationist. Her father was in the corps, but he was a little bit odd, but Alice was a wonderful girl.... Then she got married and Dad felt that his right hand had gone... she was such a wonderful girl....

I had ups and downs as far as health was concerned because the children earlier in the piece when Randle was born had diphtheria and I had it too and the result of that, though it's a few years in between – before we went to Devonport we were at The Drive privately, there were the four children then –

**JM** Margaret was already born.

**EEM** Margaret was born at Eden.

**JM** You'd better say something about Eden; we haven't talked about Eden. Where does Eden fit in?

**EEM** You were four.

**JM** I remember Dad taking me to kindergarten, Heaphy Kindergarten. That was '43. Dad used to take me on the bike.

**EEM** Yes. I can see you with a lovely tie – red, white and blue.

**JM** There's a photograph of that kindergarten, but the interesting thing about the photograph is that I'm the only kid in the class that's got a tie on.

**EEM** Oh well, you had to be dressed properly.... I knew Eden Corps because I'd been there with the Montgomerys, they were soldiers of ours there. And Margaret was born on a beautiful 21<sup>st</sup> September [1942] on a glorious day when we were at Eden. There were three then. Where's Randle?

**JM** Randle came next.

**EEM** Oh yes – better talk about Margaret.... Her Dad – it was war years – he bought her a beautiful frock with smocking on it, and a gold bangle above all things! I remember Berry saying, 'Wow, what, her father making her worldly already!'

**JM** Have I got a memory that Dad used to singe Margaret's hair with a little comb and a little bit of a flame. Do you remember that?

**EEM** Yes, and it did curl, too. And she was dedicated at Eden.

**JM** So after Eden --?

**EEM** After Eden – that must have been when we went to The Drive.... And it's amazing to think that a year or two before, I think, Laurence was also born at Eden and dedicated at Eden. Little did we ever think that they would marry.... We had three children then and I naturally had been rather busy with the corps and these children that we had a break then and bought this house in The Drive off Banff

Avenue... part of it we let, we'd two ladies that rented the two front rooms. Well, the idea was that they would help with the children.

Peter wasn't well, they all had diphtheria and Peter was very bad and he had scarlet fever so he never just picked up from that, and he used to hold his breath – oh the frights he used to give me, and I remember take him out quite often on a frosty day and shaking him outside. His father happened to come home in the midst of one of these fits, so he put him in the bed and he thought we've got to cure him of this stopping his breath, and he had to stay in his room for a day I think it was, and then he wanted to know if his rabbit – he had a black rabbit, Black Ears – was all right, and so we went and found Black Ears.

And so we were there and we had a very happy time. And we left there March and Randle was born from that house, and on 5 March we went to Bethany on Sunday afternoon and the officers and the girls were just going to have the meeting, and Hazelhurst said, 'Oh no, Greta won't be staying, she'll be going back home again'. But it wasn't very long – they left a little bell for me – that was two o'clock and Randle was born at four.... Matron Berry came to see us to say goodbye before she was going to England to marry General Orsborn, and she said, 'Whatever you do, don't let that baby get the whooping cough'. The children had the whooping cough very bad, so that was a very strenuous time. So she suggested we put him in the front room, and I was the only one to go in and out to attend to him.

**JM** Now talk to us a little bit about David, where he was born and the circumstances around David's arrival. Where were you living at the time?

**EEM** We were living at Devonport, in Mosely Avenue, no.23, and we had Alice with us.... At that time the ferries stopped at 11 o'clock, and, of course, having a baby you couldn't run the risk.

**JM** There was no hospital in Devonport?

**EEM** No, there wasn't. I had to go over to Bethany, and I went over to Monty's, and Monty took me to Bethany, Dryden Street. And David was dedicated at Devonport .

I didn't say away down there Peter – Kaha Armstrong, who was a great friend who looked after you in Kilbirnie when Peter was born....

**JM** Now, you've finished your time at Devonport, it was then to Levin, I think, the corps at Levin.

**EEM** Yes. Margaret was at school, and Randle must have been at school, and David must have been at kindergarten. At Devonport Dad went to do Bible-in-school, and the minister [headmaster?] said that Margaret looks a bright little girl, what class? And Dad said she doesn't go to school. 'Oh', he said, 'she could start today.' She started when she was four and a half and she's never stopped since.

**JM** That was Devonport, now down to Levin. You lived first of all in the quarters in Stuckey Street.

**EEM** Yes.... Next to the Misses Hitchcock. They were lovely folk, and they were thrilled with the children. And Dad had a cow there and we used to make butter in the churn. And Grandpop Randle came to visit us there from Invercargill.

**JM** We had a sheep or something there, a lamb.

**EEM** Oh yes, Molly – Peter's Molly.

**JM** Now you weren't very well in Levin.

**EEM** No, I wasn't. That's when I went to Palmerston North Hospital.

**JM** And Dad bought the house over the road. Is that what happened?

**EEM** Yes. Dad bought that while I was ill, thinking that I wouldn't be able to carry on as an officer.

**JM** Well, sometimes it sounded as though you weren't going to carry on with living even.

**EEM** Yes, I was about six weeks there.

**JM** And that's now the house that David and Carol own.... Here we are in Levin. We go to the Levin primary school which was just over the back fence, and we lived there for a number of years until we went to Palmerston North. My understanding is that Dad and you were keen for us to move from Levin to give we children a good opportunity in a decent sized Army corps. That is what it was about, wasn't it?

**EEM** Yes. But what about Invercargill?

**JM** But that was after we got established in Palmerston, wasn't it?

**EEM** Yes, it was.

**JM** We went to Palmerston, I went to high school, and then after a couple of years in Palmerston we went to Invercargill. You better tell us about that, going to Invercargill. What was that all about?

**EEM** Well, mother had died and we went down for the funeral, Dad and I, and McPhees looked after the five children, they were wonderful people....

**JM** You and Dad went down for the funeral then you came back. When the Queen came to New Zealand, I seem to remember in '53, we all went down to Invercargill for a year.

**EEM** Yes, we lived in the house. We walked in, and we went to bed 'cause the beds were there,... we just walked in and took over.

**JM** And I went to the boys' high school.

**EEM** That's right. Peter went to intermediate....

**JM** And we went to the corps....

**EEM** We had a very happy time there. That's when Dad and I felt that for the education of the family, financially having a home it would have been good for us, but we felt for the children to be brought up as Christians and be brought up in the Army, and their education especially, that we must shift back to the North Island.

**JM** So we came back after 12 months, and we went to Russell Street, didn't we?

**EEM** Yes. Where did we take the goods, the furniture and that?

**JM** Well, that came to Palmerston, I think, didn't it?

**EEM** The biggest shift the shipping company said they'd ever had.

**JM** Was it? From Invercargill to Palmerston, with all the stuff.

**EEM** Oh yes, I can see it all now, yes, that's right.

**JM** We came back to Palmerston, and after we'd been in the corps at Palmerston for some time you and Dad felt that you needed to get back into the Work.



**EEM** Yes.

**JM** And you applied to the Army and they sent you to Linwood. Isn't that the way it worked?

**EEM** Linwood, that's right, yes. Dad had been very ill, was in hospital actually, and Aunt Mildred Fitch of Wanganui, Dad's aunt had died, and it was always her wish that Dad conducted her funeral, so he got up out of the bed, and they granted him permission to go to the funeral. Colonel Elliot really led the funeral but Dad took part, and he never went back to the hospital after that. We said because the Lord had been so good, we just felt we must go back and do something, and that's when Linwood opened up.

**JM** And that was a wonderful period.

**EEM** Four and a half years, and Cyril [Bradwell] in one of his books tells all about that. That was a wonderful term. Even though we persevered – and even Dad said at our farewell that if it hadn't been for Greta's persuasion that we must carry on we wouldn't be at this retirement today.

**JM** So here you are at Linwood, and from Linwood you went to Hastings. Now do you want to say something about Hastings before --.

**EEM** Well, can you fill in all about some of the people that were in Hastings – in Linwood – the Lords.

**JM** I'll just mention some of them now about the Linwood people.

**EEM** The Linwood period was amazing: Cyril Bradwell....

**JM** Now there were some real trophies of grace in that corps. Can you remember some of them? There was Fred Rumble; what was the story about Fred?

**EEM** Fred Rumble and his dear wife. Fred Rumble was known in Christchurch as the – he had his teeth all coated with diamonds, but he was a tough man really, very tough to his wife; she had to sleep on sacks in the shed. And he was known in the town as a real rogue, and yet he had a heart of gold.

He was very fond of Dad, 'cause Dad used to talk to him spiritually and in his own way to really tell him a few things, and he used to call me the big angel and Margaret the little angel. But, praise God, he came to the meetings at night and used to have his big dog in the back seat, sitting there with his dog at his feet and singing 'Whosoever heareth' – that was his favourite....

After Dad's funeral, I well remember we went round taking flowers straight from the funeral, John and I, calling at special friends and Fred was one of them and we took him a wreath of lovely flowers, and the Lords, and there were several of the old comrades or people we had had close contact with. And I remember John's saying to me he opened a wardrobe and there were all these notes fell out – [at] Fred's home.... And praise God the contact we had with them, and his dear wife died listening to the songsters singing and she got converted and was buried by the Army.

**JM** Now I understand there was a former officer from the corps – what was their names? who came back in their late life.

**EEM** We could go on and on and on with the families of the – there was the Schroeders, there was Bro.Perkins who was deaf and he used to say, 'I don't know what you're saying but it must be good'. And the Taylors, all these wonderful people.

First of all before we go on about the Clarks, I'll tell you about these people the – oh, I thought of their name a minute ago – the lady, she -- it was collecting time when you used to go door-to-door collecting, and Dad went and this lady – he didn't know who she was, of course – she brought 50 cents out, she said I'll give it reluctantly. And Dad said, 'Well, I'd rather you didn't give at all if you –'. Dad just had a wonderful way with words and love for people. So that was that. And next it was a very special wedding anniversary.... **[End of tape 1, side 2]**

**[Tape 2, side 1]**

**JM** [Linwood memories of the late '50s. Starting now to talk about the Lamberton family.]

**EEM** .... It was Self Denial time and Dad went to the corner of Marlborough Street, Linwood, and Dad went to the door and this fine looking lady came – 88 – and she said, 'I'll give something but I give it reluctantly'. 'Oh, why?' And she told the story about over in Greymouth or somewhere and they were treated badly by the Army.

Then the next day there was a write-up in the paper about these same people, Lambertons. Naturally, when Dad saw it, he never stopped at anything, he said to me, 'I'm going round again to see these people 'cause they're celebrating 75, I think, wedding anniversary. And they said in the paper that the happiest days of their lives had been when they were Salvation Army officers'. So Dad thought he would go round and see them. So he knocked on the door and he was invited in. And the old gentleman was there too.... They talked away – 'And tell me what about your experience at [Greymouth], and do you ever think --?' 'Well, we do sometimes. We haven't been to the Army for years. We think we might go to the Catholic church just to get a little peace in our hearts before the Lord calls us.'

And it finished up a wonderful, wonderful occasion, when these dear folk, 88 years old, knelt around the kitchen table and gave their hearts to the Lord. And Dad didn't stop at that, he thought now I'll have to go and find the DC and see what you do next. And he had to go the People's Palace to find the DC who was having dinner. He said just take the Articles of War and get them to sign them right now. Which happened. And to finish up with the last two or three years of their lives they were soldiers at Linwood Corps, and they were both buried from the Salvation Army and their names are on the [Promoted to Glory] board....

**JM** Now you had some sort of a programme, you and Dad, where you had a notice up saying: 'Don't say nobody cares.' What was that all about?

**EEM** In Linwood we had a wonderful term there, and the soldiers were so loyal. We had a bad start because we had been out for quite a wee time, just privately, and the goods all came and the man came to see where to put the furniture, and I went out and fell through the veranda at the house in Cashel Street. And there I was laid up for six weeks, instead of me ministering as we should have been doing. And the DC said: 'Sell the place; sell the place straight away!' So the first thing Dad had to do was to sell Cashel Street.

**JM** Where did you find a new house?

**EEM** Now that's another miracle, finding a new house. How we got to know the people because they came to visit me – Ollie Lord and Major Lord and Major McKenzie – and they came home very excited on the first Sunday night it was all arranged before we got there that the band were going to Greymouth, and they came after the Sunday night meeting and they came in very excited because they

said a man had been in the meeting but he was a soldier years ago, 20 years before, and they were so excited that he was back in the meeting – this was Stan Clark.

**JM** Oh, was it – that's another story.

**EEM** That was a wonderful story. And it was getting near New Year time, and on the Monday night Dad said, 'I'm going to visit these people'. And he heard the story that they had belonged and so on, and Mrs Clark was the second wife but a delightful lady – and also Stan was – and Dad went round on New Year's Eve and they had visitors so he couldn't stay, so he wouldn't be put off. On the Wednesday night he went again, and after a long talk those two also knelt at the table. And all the backsliding of the years – and there was quite a bit of unhelpful talk around the corps because these people all knew the first wife and things just weren't as they – there was a lady Mrs Warren, well she knew all about these things. However, she was a lovely lady.

**JM** Now how did you come to get that new quarters, then?

**EEM** I'm leading up to this. The miracle of Stan Clark was that we had to get a new quarters. Well, Dad went to 177 Linwood Avenue – he just heard that this place was for sale and he thought he would go and see what the story was. And he got Stan to go round and see 'cause he had been a builder and now he was converted he was a great, great help. And anyhow it was a wonderful transaction of this house being the new quarters.

**JM** And it's now the place where the citadel and all the property in Linwood Avenue.

**EEM** And there was a second property next [door] and it all came in our term. And Priscilla Clark became wonderful soldiers and served – Stan himself said they wanted to catch up on something of the 20 years that they had wasted. The feeling in the corps didn't help at all in those way back days. And there was a bit of feeling but then they both knelt at the penitent form, the next Sunday after Dad went to see them. And I remember going out to the door while Dad was leading the meeting watching for them coming to give them a welcome. And they were wonderful soldiers and all those years they served, and he actually died while the band was playing at an evening meeting – not while we were there.

**JM** What about Hugh's story?

**EEM** We did mention about the [sign]board. The sergeant-major, who was Cyril, he made special mention in a Sunday morning meeting about the officers' wisdom and foresight of putting this text up on the board: 'Don't say nobody cares. Ring so and so.'

Well I was home answering the phone and we had some wonderful phone [-call]s. Well, the next Sunday morning we received a phone call about 7 o'clock in the morning. A young man – and this is remarkable too – a young man spoke on the phone and said he needed help, and Dad thought it was... Roy Smith pulling his leg, but no, he said, I'm in deep need. Dad said, 'Young fellow, you stay where you are and I'll come down and meet you.' And he went straight down and I put the fire on and we made toast and tea and brought this young fellow in that we didn't know anything about. And he told the story about having a row with the girlfriend and he was just on his way to commit suicide in the harbour.

Now Hugh was a wonderful man, well he became a wonderful man. He had a job in the Post Office all his working days and then he was keeping company with Joyce Schroeder, well Schroeders were a very established family and in fact Herb said to Dad, 'Do you think it's all right? What would your advice be about Hugh going to marry Joyce?' 'Well,' he said, 'he hasn't put a foot wrong.' So they married and had five children, and Hugh died triumphantly after cancer in the Blenheim Corps, and had a wonderful – a real warrior's funeral.... So some wonderful things happened.

**JM** That must have been a remarkable period, that period when you were at the Linwood Corps.

**EEM** Oh, it sure was. And John went to [SA training] college. And we were there and we thought, 'What are we going to do about Randle? We don't like leaving Randle behind.' And Dad rang Percy Stanton up to see if there was any jobs in stationery in Hastings, where we were going to be stationed, and, no, they had taken on somebody, but about an hour after the phone rang: 'Job awaiting son'. And the result has been that – Carol was in the office, about the same age, and they fell in love straight away, and Randle had his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday the other day and he's a managing director of the firm, and received this award in Germany just a few weeks back.

**JM** Tell us a little more about Randle. You say he worked at 'gelatine', what was the story there?

**EEM** ... Randle was very shy in those days, and we thought, 'We just can't leave Randle behind',... he had a job at 'gelatine', they wanted just a young fellow from school – this was in Linwood, the gelatine factory wasn't far from where we lived, so he had a bike, and we've heard since that he used to cry all the way to the job because he didn't know how to even write out an invoice.

**JM** We're now to 1961 January. Mum and Dad have been at Linwood for four and a half years and farewell orders arrived as it does, and they're now heading off to Hastings in the Hawkes Bay. Perhaps you could say a little bit about it, Mum.

**EEM** It was rather significant that it was Hastings where we were going to be stationed at because that was where I actually – I was officially farewelled at Wellington City where Montgomerys were, then going to Hastings, early '34. '33 there wasn't any session, so we were a big session. The amazing thing was that the first Saturday we were there there was a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and all the women that I had known, friends there I had known, they were preparing for this breakfast. And I said, 'Well, what happens now? I'm the corps officer and ...'. We had a wonderful time at Hastings....

**JM** Let me mention a few appointments and you can comment if you want to: Epsom Lodge, Wainuiomata. Now Wainuiomata was flat on its back, and you and Dad went there, and didn't you turn the place upside down?

**EEM** Absolutely. Wainui – there was nothing there, and the commissioner said, 'If you just go and visit some people, that's all we want you to do.' And when we arrived the grass was right up to your waist, past your waist, at the quarters and at the hall.... But some wonderful things happened.

The people were enthusiastic and there were some extraordinary conversions, and some of the great people there were the Pomare family. Now they were very high people in the Maori associations and the wife, she was quite high up in the tribal community. We had a wonderful time there.... There was nothing to work on but we

prayed. One very faithful family was the doctor, Dr and Mrs Budge, they were great people and had a great love for the Army....

From nothing, Dad got the inspiration to have some concerts, and Allan and Doreen Pike, they offered to come out from Wellington, and they both could sing, and we used to have concerts and the hall would be full. And the Pomare children were a fine family and they started coming to the Sunday school.... And Wainui grew so much that now they bought the house next door and have a beautiful hall.... We had goats, a couple of goats.... Dad had them on the section eating up this grass. I think that's the first place Dad put the sign up 'Don't think nobody cares.'

**JM** But you did it at Linwood. But you also did it there, at Wainui?

**EEM** Yes. I think that's where we first did it. And now it's quite a regular thing for officers [to do].... We were the starters of it. Also, while we were at Wainui was the 'Wahine' storm.... We did have a wonderful time.

When Margaret and Laurence went to Africa the first time, they went out on the boat about 8 or 9 at night and we saw them off and you can imagine how we felt, but that was the night we went to Wainui, we slept at Wainui that first night. We went there to occupy ourselves and just to look after the property, but the Lord over-ruled, and there was a wonderful corps.... From there we went to Paremata.

**JM** That was also a bit flat.

**EEM** Well yes, Paremata, that's right.... Fred Searle and his wife Alice they were the DCs.... We ran a Sunday school there to start with and there wasn't much, though we did have Peter Thorp was a young man and his mother was there.... We really did have a very good time there....

**JM** The good news is that Paremata is doing very well, so you laid some good foundations there

**EEM** Way back when Colonel Albiston – I said I was going up to see him 'cause I was quite emphatic that we had to do something and we must not lose our rank whatever. They'd pensioned us at that stage, and I said well wherever we go we're still running like Paremata and Wainuiomata and these places. And we were doing as much as we were doing until we come to Wellington City....

**JM** I think we need to say a little bit about the court work, because that was a great appointment.

**EEM** Yes, we were living at Karori from Paremata. Mr and Mrs Thompson very kindly – we had nowhere to go – offered us to live in a house next door to them which was two-storied and it was a lovely home – and we were so happy....

**JM** So you were living in that house in Karori, and it was about then that Dad became involved in the court work, because there was no one else much doing the court work and it was in a bit of a doldrums. So they asked Dad if he would do the court work.

**EEM** That's right.

**JM** And that turned out to be a wonderful appointment.

**EEM** That's right. Dad used to be very interested in... men and young fellows, and they used to go to St Peter's church, Willis Street, to pray. Or into Colonel Blincoe's little, old office, and that's where they'd pray.... They still remember those wonderful times: Brian Waugh, Ron Smith, Gerald Thorner and Peter Schiska....

**JM** And he became well known in the courts.

**EEM** Yes, we've got a wonderful book, it's like 'This is Your Life'.

**JM** At your retirement, when you had judges and all sorts of people come along.

**EEM** Oh absolutely....

**[Conversation ends on side 1 of tape 2.]**

Original cassette tapes held by Margaret and Laurence Hay

Transcribed by LH, July 2009