



Paul Eddington (IWM SR 9328 – Reel 1, 11:30 – 13:00)

A lot of the senior male staff had been conscientious objectors in the First War. I know that the senior master, Frank Parkin, was in Oxford Gaol. He was in the Army in the First War, actually wearing uniform at the time when he decided that he was a pacifist and was not going to fight any longer. He was thrown into Oxford Gaol and an attempt was made to certify him insane. Mr Herbert, our woodwork master, I remember, he had also been in the war, not as a soldier but I believe in the Friends Ambulance Unit. And lively stories were told of a year or two before I went to school, a lot of the boys remembered it with glee, in the cruel way that children have, of having a severe thunderstorm once while Roland Herbert was taking a woodwork class, and he shouted to the boys to put their guns down and get under the benches. They were holding T squares – rather sad. The headmaster was actually breaking stones in Dartmoor during the First War, so you can see how completely non-conformist it was.

Paul Eddington (IWM SR 9328 – Reel 1, 20:47-21:30)

All I do feel currently, is that – as I felt then – that no matter how extreme the circumstances, or even if the circumstances are at their most extreme, another way has to be found, and that if we do not hold tightly to that feeling then I think the rest of our position collapses as well. If we are tested and we say one thing, and then we are tested more sternly, and we say another, there wasn't much value in our original position.