

MBL 006 (b)**Summary – Denys Vaughan, born in Barrow 1931, now lives in Grange**

00.1.45	General history of Aldingham,
1.45	Talks about Goadsbarrow, attracting hundreds of people who walked there, foreshore crowded, fishing for flatties, or treading for cockles.
2.41	Beach houses at Rampside, general info about Rampside
3.23	Talks of Will (Denys's uncle?) who was chauffer to Bishop at Aldingham. Story about Bishop's pet rabbit as told by Will. Also story told by Will about trip with Bishops to climb Coniston Old Man
7.11	Will's wife Connie looking forward to the effects of War moved them to Barrow and started a business and Will sent to shipyard which kept him from army. Will lost his life on Mosses rd.
8.10	Talks of being taken around St Cuthbert's by Vicar of Urswick
9.20	Walney, first school trip at five, windy wet day. Walking on beach with tennis ball put ball on sand safe taken away by tide.
10.50	Talks about riot on Walney in 1800s leading to Biggar Bank becoming access land. Talks of seaside features being demolished after the war
13.10	Talks about paddling pool and yachting pool. Talks of 'sad' accident where he lost his toy submarine in yachting pool.
12.20	Swimming pool and café. Fantastic playground for everyone, Denys had his school swimming galas there. Landfill built after war and pool demolished. Talks about story of child on foreshore during war who went on to minefield on shore to collect his ball and detonated mine, scattering over paddling pool. Denys doesn't know whether this was true but certainly part of 'folklore' during war.
16.45	Talks of WW1 Biggar Bank airship shed. Built an aerodrome on Walney in 1938. Anson and Mile Majester trailed cable of oiled silk,
19.10	Stores around perimeter track including NAFFI stores. Boys from his school would be able to get past minefield and broke into what they thought was NAFFI hut, but found that they were in armoury hut. Boys took '303' rifles and several sten guns and ammunition and thunder flashes. They brought them into school next day. By end of week each boy in school had 303 blanks. One of the boys took sten gun into geography room and all boys shot sten gun through window. Let off thunder flash in library. One lunchtime a thunder flash came in through the window and exploded under teacher's desk. Teacher as white as a sheet. Head boy did a search.
24.30	Teacher was teaching history. Owner of sten gun pretended to shoot the teacher. Teacher called out boy who was able to conceal the gun
26.35	Authorities found culprits - suspended 6 boys. One of boys was son of police officer. Police went to one of the boys and found armoury in attic and he was expelled, though found his way into Royal Engineers.
28.45	End of war on Walney. VE day a huge relief. Every day you would see telegram boy meaning bad news. Lost a few neighbours and a few old

	boys from school. Father was in merchant navy. 5 years of war put 20 years on his mother with 4 out of control kids.
30.10	Headmaster gave boys a holiday to celebrate VE day. The night of VE day they had gone around town singing. Band from RAF Walney was outside shipyard. Barrow Island had a huge bonfire. One am in morning band marched back to Walney with everyone following.
32.00	VE holiday They got some money and caught train to Torver and walked to Coniston to youth hostel. Denys recounts his VE holiday. Fined for arriving late. Given boiled egg which he couldn't eat because he knew where eggs came from. Scafell. Teacher from school treated them to breakfast. Went with teachers to Helvellyn. Had a morning coffee – lads from Salthouse and Hindpool didn't do morning coffee! In same room were escaped aircrew. Teachers treated them to travel back home.
37.25	Barrow prime target during the war. Building Indomitable aircraft carrier. Near completion in May 1941. Bombed for a fortnight– first night of bombing a landmine landed about 100 yards from house turning neighbours' hen house to match wood and made Denys's home uninhabitable. So family went to live with father's parents at Strand. Heaviest bombing on first Sunday. Wait for 8 bombs. Noise terrific. Indomitable was fully armed so fired from gun placements.
40.35	Other grandparents' house uninhabitable too. Went to airfield and planes zooming. Air officer took them off open football field. Told them to remain unseen. It was a couple of days before they found mother's family. Uncle had been wounded by outside lavatory door. He had been taken to military hospital at Baycliffe.
42.50	Following week gone to Roa Island because they had information that Indomitable was going to sail. Uncle Frank ran the pilot boat. Ivan and Denys waited for ship. Earry no sound but tugs taking ship out. All cranes on Ship were vertical. It glided past by Piel Island.
45.00	Uncle Frank had taken a camera and taken pictures of Indomitable (illegal) and pictures of ship coming out of mist. Denys inherited the camera later and box of photographic equipment in 1974 they were developed...
46.50 49.15	Not relevant to Morecambe Bay - Talks about history of indomitable, including transporting Rugby League team including Reg Parker from Grange.
49.15	Barrage Balloons around Barrow. Practically all wiped out during thunderstorm. Filled with hydrogen came down in flames
50.50	Always afraid of Father being torpedoed or Ivan being killed. Talks of Ivan being killed. During bombing in Anderson shelter they were cold. He left shelter one night to make a warm drink had to be careful of shrapnel from anti-aircraft fire. A machine gunner opened up from low flying German aircraft. Very frightened travelling 30 yards to shelter. Once he was extremely scared when bomb seemed to come very close. On the bad Sunday everyone huddled under the stairs and house shook.
55.10	Collecting shrapnel, bomb splinter with writing or dial or threading from bolt was great as you could swop them. Denys once had a nose cap. Bits of parachute and plaited silk. Undamaged parachutes went into the black market.

57.25	Roa Island a Wellington crashed still in one piece. Therapeutic for Denys as he had seen horrible things from crashes – frightening leading to bad dreams. Everything loose from Wellington had gone, his uncle Jimmy was sawing out Perspex from turret. Nice to see a beautiful aircraft.
1.00.10	What effect did the war have on Barrow? Shattering for people who had lost people. British Legion looked after them. Black Market, Frank at Roa Island would shoot wildfowl so they never went hungry. Caught flatties – put in sink which would revive them and make them flap, used to alarm his mother. Huge amount of gardening. His maternal grandfather Frank worked at shipyard past retirement age he had an area of Yarlside tennis club as allotment. Joe Royal also had allotments at the club. Pinched turnips from farmers. Black market in meat products depending on who you knew. Jimmy had a boat called magic, he would set a net across the channel. Magic would go towards Piel and Denys's role would be to batter sea whilst Jimmy sailed across channel, causing fish to swim into net. Boat load of coddling and a huge skate.
1.06.55	Father would bring things back from America such as tins of food & cigarettes. He brought back a huge sack of onions from Gibraltar
1.07.45	Conscientious objectors shunned. Talks of relatives in military. Objectors planted trees in Grizedale. One in the street. Denys hated him because he was alive whilst Ivan had been killed.
1.10.40	People made money through extra shifts at shipyard. Led to housing division. Denys's sister resented her father for joining merchant navy because he could have made lots of money in shipyards.
1.12.25	Talks about maths teachers at Barrow Grammar School. A maths teacher at school was a conscientious objector. Those with professional parents got steered into jobs, others not. Denys's saviour National Service
1.15.00	After war cars were affordable because a lot of money had been made. Could buy a posh car for £500. Talks about a car he was interested in buying.
1.16.30	Talks about political scene in Barrow. 1945 Walter Monslow. Talks about it being a bolshie town as them and us
1.18.15-	Talks about changes in town, how people often want to come back
1.23.55	Break Talks about the different people that made up Barrow
1.26.20	Worked on submarine. Shipyard had a captured German scientist. Submarine fuelled by hydrogen peroxide, captured submarine –
1.29.40	Anchorite – used for experiments. Secret engineering work
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett 7 th Sept 2016 Summarised by Emma Aylett