

INTERVIEW #12

Tape: 9(B), 10(A – B495)

I12

Date: Jan.30/75

Place: 5 Sherwood, Kitchener

Participants: Andrew Bowman, Jacob Peters

Pre-War

- both left school after Gr.8 to work on farms to bring money home for their family
- families of different backgrounds - but both emphasized nonresistance
- did not recall any instances of anti -Mennonite or anti-CO feelings

War

- both were at Emery Creek for the summer of '42; in Mid-Oct. they were all sent to L. Cowichan
- gave a comprehensive list of who was at Emery Creek
- felt that the atmosphere of the camps varied with the cooks and foreman; specifically mentioned, differences between two foremen
- first job at Cowichan was to pull a railroad which had been laid by a logging company - before they had used it the forest had burned down; after pulling up the tracks they widened the path for a road
- in the fall they did tree planting - a group of boys would go to Hill 60 (mostly) or to Campbell R. or Timberlands for periods of around two weeks and then return to Cowichan
- very little sense of contribution - often felt you were just putting in time; the depression had taught them that one had to be productive - therefore, they found this a little frustrating
- also frustrating and somewhat agonizing was that they had been told that they would be there for the duration; they found the uncertainty of not knowing when they would be able to return home particularly troublesome - felt that this was the hardest thing to take about the whole experience

Note: This interview contains some excellent accounts by Mr. and Mrs. Peters of some of their experiences during the Russian Revolution