

WAR, WORK AND DISABILITY

BECOME A PART OF SCOTTISH HISTORY



You might be interested in, and able to help with a new project being run by the Scottish Oral History Centre (SOHC), based at the University of Strathclyde. The SOHC want to hear from people who were disabled or became disabled during the period 1939-1950 or from their advocates, family and co-workers. During the war huge demands were made on the working population of Scotland to meet production targets for munitions and other goods. With the departure of many workers to the armed forces employers began recruiting disabled people to help fill the gaps in the essential services at home. By 1941, a wartime employment service for disabled people (aged 16 or over) had been put in place which also provided help to those who had been wounded in battle and were undergoing rehabilitation.

Some research has been done on this subject but the personal stories of those directly involved are scarce. Indeed, it is almost impossible to access the Scottish experience. However, by creating an oral history archive for Scotland the gap in knowledge will begin to be filled providing an important and valuable resource that can be used as a platform to stimulate research and disseminate and improve knowledge.

David Walker, who works with the SOHC, would love to hear from anyone who thinks they could help with this project. So, were you, or do you know anyone who was disabled and who worked during the war years? Did you or do you know anyone who helped the disabled in the workplace during the Second World War period? This includes all those who worked for disability organizations. It doesn't matter where you are based as David is able to visit you and capture your memories using a digital audio recorder. So, if you, or anyone you know fits the bill and want to become a part of Scottish history then why not contact David in the first instance on 0141 444 8367 and leave a message. Or, you can email him at david.walker@strah.ac.uk