

INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND TRANSCRIPT

IVORAN FAIRWEATHER

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Transcriber SAFFRON EAST

Content summary Description of experiences of racism in service versus civilian life; Fairweather found racism more prevalent in civilian life in Britain, after he had served in the Second World War. Fairweather describes how his generation, “*the forerunners*”, fought racism in British society and dismantled the colour bar.

[00:00:00] IF: *“During the war when I was in active service, I think I was treated better than when I came up in civilian life. You’re finally the snub, mostly with the American soldiers, the white American, they’d call us “Yub-yub-yub”, [unclear] “Black monkey”. But that was just a gimmick in the barrack. We overcome that. But the greatest insult and disgrace is when you’ve fought for the defence of the mother country, and you came back in civilian life and nine out of ten doors have been slammed in your face, is not good enough.”*

[00:00:44] [interviewer]: *“So, how do you compare it with today?”*



IF: Well, we have changed the face, we have changed the scenery. We have changed the atmosphere. We, the forerunners of West Indians. There were several pubs we couldn't go into and get a Guinness to buy marked, "Keep Brixton white, keep other place [unclear] white, keep Britain white". And we break down the colour bar. And we live to see. We have landed pub in Brixton, Angel, "The Coach and Horses that we used to be barred from, Black governors take it over now. Through the work of the few of us that were here. Because we fight for it, we fought for it and we're determined to cross the racial barrier.