

HOMeward BOUND – A LIVERPOOL-WEST AFRICA MARITIME HERITAGE INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Interviewee: Marie Therese O'Sullivan (married to Captain Clifford O'Sullivan)

Interviewer: Nick White

Date: 13 /04/ 2016

File Name: MOSHB001 – MOSHB002

TRACK ONE - MOSHB001

[00:40] recollection of meeting husband Capt Clifford O'Sullivan while teaching in London ; [08:45] Husband's career – went to sea aged 15, shipping federation in Cardiff; [14:00] advised to join a liner company; Elder Dempster in Water St, 1937; apprenticeship on *SS Penolver* [16:20] entire career with ED; [19:40] money as wife at home [20:45] merger with Blue Funnel; recollection of dinner party on *Aureol*; description of working patterns – 31 days at sea, 11 days at home, 2 days of home leave in office; [23:40] double headers to UK – France – USA – France – UK; [24:10] three voyages accompanying husband; description of first voyage while pregnant; swimming facilities; cakes for tea on Tuesdays; [27:50] voyage in 1972, daughter with grandmother in England; voyage in 1973 for husband's 60th birthday; party to celebrate birthday; [30:10] passing time on board; no problem with sea legs; [31:40] wives not allowed to accompany husband on *Aureol*; [32:40] recollection of cargo – dumping of locomotive in sea as was unstable; [34:50] different nationalities on board; loneliness of the role as Master, like a parish priest; [37:00] Impressions of West Africa – didn't like Lagos; did enjoy Ghana; expat community in Ghana; tour of sawmills; [40:20] clean air in Ghana; visit to beach, time away from ship; [43:30] time spent in dry dock on the continent; trip ashore to go to cinema, subtitles in Flemish; [47:30] little contact with company when husband was away, no need.

END OF TRACK ONE

TRACK TWO - MOSHB002

[00:30] Contact with other ED wives; [02:00] communication while at sea – wrote letters daily in order to have a letter waiting in each port; daughter Rachel sent drawings; [06:30] description of life when husband was home between voyages – life continued as normal; went to work at St John's Hospice; [09:00] self-sufficient; [09:45] Clifford retired in Lagos aged 60 on 18/05/1973; worked in Kuwait from '74 – '80; [14:40] finally retired fully on 19/12/1980 when daughter was nine years old; relationship between father and daughter; [18:20] Clifford maintained contact with ED colleagues – played bridge, went to luncheon; [23:10] abiding memories – little contact with ED as wife; [24:30] some friends but not involved with ED after husband's death.

END OF INTERVIEW