

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

Interviewee: Ray Riley

Interviewer: Nick White

Date: 09/06/2016

File Name: RRHB001

[40:00] Started work for Elder Dempster aged 16 during war; [2:55] freight office and also in Lagos; reference to office in Linnet Lane during/after war; [8:40] worked in Hamburg; returned to Liverpool to get married; [10:40] ten months in Lagos as marketing manager; returned to India Buildings; [11:35] description of trips up country in Lagos; social activities of football and cricket; [14:00] working in freight company; [17:00] regular trips to West Africa; working as ED representative with companies including Glaxo, Raleigh, United Africa Company (UAC); [21:40] Raleigh company, bicycles shipped to Nigeria; [23:00] UKWAL, post-1967; [25:30] Description of working in India Buildings in freight dept.; Nigerian National Lines, always late; [27:50] working in Nigeria – challenges, travel; family (wife and two children) also living in Nigeria, children attending local schools; [29:40] family challenges when living in West Africa; [30:10] Description of work in Lagos; manufacturing processes; transporting cargo on time; [32:10] competition from continental opposition; German lines especially; [34:45] management structures; [36:30] career involved lots of driving; provided with company car; [38:10] ED slogan 'Go by Sea, Go ED' on radio advert; [39:10] description of cargoes – cocoa, coffee, timber; malt for Guinness factory; [43:00] shipping from Ireland; complicated shipments; also baby milk from Ireland; [46:30] role with UKWAL; anecdote re: bringing a bicycle from WS to Dublin for a worker; good relations with staff; [48:30] Anecdote re: function with Irish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; [52:00] Agreements re: freight rates; further description of Irish shipping business; [54:00] Ghana favourite WA country; Lagos very busy; description of craftsmen making tables on quays in Takaradi; [56:00] Round trip to Ghana and Nigeria with wife and children; also accompanying Blue Funnel ladies round Freetown.

END OF INTERVIEW