

INTERVIEW WITH - MR. JOHN MURRAY (BODGE),
REGENT VILLA, TITNESS STREET, BUCKIE.

AND

MR. JOHN MURRAY (SMACKER),
57 YARDIE, BUCKIE.

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Interview with John Murray ('Bodge'), "Regent Villa", Titness Street, Buckie and John Murray ('Smacker'), 57 Yardie, Buckie. 3.5.88

Q. What was the name of your boats?

A. You mean that we first went to sea in?

Q. Aye.

A. I wid say the 'Forelock' BCK 60.

Q. And wis it wood or steel?

A. Steel. Aye, frae Aberdeen, Alexander Hall, Aberdeen. Right?

Q. And your one?

A. The 'Fruitful'.

Q. And the number?

A. 194. BCK 194. She wis built in hall Russells, Aberdeen, I think. Wis't nae Smith Duggan? No. Hall Russells I think. She wis condemned in Yarmouth min'.

Q. Wis it wood or steel?

A. Steel.

Q. Now your engine room details - whit were your workin' conditions like?

A. A well, you see, in steam days ye hid a chief an' a fisherman, that's a' that ye hid. The fireman got about 30/- a week, an' the engineer got about £2, aye £2.10/-. They had different size o' engines ye see. There wis compound engines and triple engines. That wis the bigger size, the triple engines. But they were a' steam, they hid tae shuffle in the coal in tae the biler tae get the steam up tae get the engine tae go, ye see. An' they were a' worket by han' fae below. The skipper jist rang doon whit he winted at the telegraph, and he did the needful in the engine room. He hid a big lever that he pulled up an' he put on the steam an' he reversed her or pit her aheid jist wi' this one lever, in the engine room. The fireman took her to sea an' the chief took her ashore. Wi' ~~seventeen~~ ^{NINE} men, aye in the fishin' days. If they were on steaming passage, it wis a case o' watch on an' watch aff. Four on an' four aff, aye an' a mealtime wis a mealtime, ye see, an' maybe four hoors tae the next.

Fa' ever wis on watch hid tae clean the fire sometimes, aye if ye were on a lang steam ye ken, ye hid tae clean the fires the time ye were steamin' tae keep the boat gaun. That wis rakin' oot a' the fires an' cleanin' them an' throwin' in mair coal tae get mair steam. The clinker, the hail stock pot fae o' ashes. An' then ye hid tae hail a' this ashes up through a ventilator an' dump them ower the side, the chief, an' sometimes the deckies gave ye a han'.

Q. And how did ye cool the engines of the boats?

A. Cool them?

Q. Aye, wis there a coolin' system?

A. No, nae wi' steam. ye jist ^{oiled} learned them every twa hoors, every hoor or half hoor. If they heat up ye jist used soapy water an' throwed it on. Aye, tae keep them cool. The chief nicht saft soap the water, an' that wis it. They kent their job. They kept them runnin' ony way.

Q. How did you do your ordering of your groceries?

A. The ordering o' the groceries? Oh weel, at the start o' the fishin' ye see, that wis a right case. Ye hid an afa' lot o' work went in tae the start o' the fishin'. Atween paintin' the boat, that wis dean a' through the year till the time came. Then ye hid bows tae paint, the hale fleet o' bows tae paint, an' ropes tae tar, an' ye hid a hale fleet o' nets tae come oot o' the store tae ging doon tae the barkin' place tae be barkit. A fleet cam' aboard the boat, the spare anes gid up an' ye dried them, then ye took them doon dry aboard the boat afore ye gid awa'. That wis afore ye iver started tae fish. And then ye gid tae the grocers. Then ye gid roon' the hale toon, wi' a horse an' cairt in they days, aye, Georgie Milton's. Ye gid roon' a' the crew, maybe nine o' a crew, in the summertime, an' ye got a' his gear aboard, his beddie an' his blankets an' his oilskins an' beets, an' then ye feenished up at the grocers afore ye gid doon. An' ye took a' yer..., weel, a bagfu' o' sugar in those days min', a hunnerweight bag, an' a great big box o' butter dip, it wis in half puns', ye ken, twenty eight pun' boxes, an' fit else, tea. It wis in three ply wid boxes, wis it three pun' boxes? I canna' min'. An' ye hid boxes o' prunes an' boxes o' dried fruit, apple rings, an' a thingmart o' cheese, ane o' that great big roon' anes, ye ken. Aye, nae the wee roon' anes, ane o' the big anes. Ye used tae slice aff a bit. It wis aye after halin', maistly. Or a Sunday nicht maybe. Fin the cook wis ashore. That wis yer Sunday nicht's tae. An' bags o' tatties an' bags o' neeps.

Q. Did ye make yer own loaf?

A. No, no. Ye took loaves wi' ye. Ye see, sometimes ye wis in, at least ainse in the twa days, ony wey. Ye wis

practically every day. If ye got ony herrin', ye wis in every day. Ye hid boxes o' crackers for emergencies. Aye, yon hard biscuits, ye ken. An' oatcakes. Beef? Weel ye could tak' a week's beef wi' ye at a time. Ye satted it doon an' put spice on it, an' sa't. Wi had a wee barrelie that we kept it in in the sma' boat for keepin' the beef. That's a'. Bit ye could get beef half through the week if ye wanted. An' bacon an' eggs an' that kin' o' stuff, ye were maybe awa' twa days a'hin, or sausages. bit it wis aye maistly fried herrin' that ye hid tae yer breakfast, sometimes nearly three dizen, dependin' on the size. Aye, up tae very near thirty herrin' fried every mornin', dependin' the kin' o' boat ye wis in, ye ken. If ye hid a good cook it wis a' richt, but we wis only fourteen, ye see, gaun awa' cook, jist left the school an' gaun awa' cook. An' ye hid tae cook tae nine men.

Q. Did ye get an exemption?

A. No, we niver got nae exemption. We left school at that time. Oh no, that wis the time that ye left school - second year.

Q. So ye jist went right to the sea when ye left school?

A. Aye. If ye left that simmer, ye went awa' that simmer.

Q. Have ye any funny stories aboot yer cookin'?

Q. Ha, ha, well there wis some disasters!

Q. Well, whit kind o' disasters?

A. A well, sometimes if ye wis makin' pastry it didna' turn oot sae good, an' fit dae ye ca' them, thon Eve's puddin's an' that kin' o' things, that sunk and things o' that kin' o' thing. But, over all it wis pretty good. Ye jist learned as ye went along, ye see. There wis some lads good cooks, an' some lads that cooked jist tae get a start tae get on tae the deck or something. They werena' interested in cookin', but some lads were, some lads went a' the time cookin'. It wis a good job if ye put yer min' tae it. Oh, it wis a good job. Ye got a lot a' mair time aff, ye see, cookin'.

Q. Now how did ye light the boats? How did ye get lightin' in the boats?

A. Lightin'? Carbide that time. It wis carbide gas. Ye made yer own gas that time. Wi' carbide, carbide an' water. That made the gas. An' it wis pipet through the boat. Wee burners, little wee burners. High tailies, they gaud them. An' the twa wirket the gither. It wis a good enough licht, bit ye hid tae watch. Ye hid tae watch the carbide, ye see, for the gas. An' ye hid tae keep the pipes clear cause sometimes, if ye got watter, if ye got a blob o' watter in the pipes that wis it, ye

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couldna' get the gas through. ye hid tae keep the pipes clear, the hail set o' them, richt through the boat. It wis carbide gas, ye see. Then we got electric aifter that. For mast heidlichts, an' steamin' lichts, it wis pariffin.

Q. Wis it?

A. Oh aye. It wis paraffin lichts. Ye hid tae tak' them in tae the gelly an' licht them. Weel. in some boats they were kept in the engine room, because they were polished, they were scoored. Some boats they hid them painted, bit an afa' lot o' boats, they used tae clean them. Oh aye, ye used tae licht them in the gelly or the engine room, whichever. An' heist them up. Come oot on the deck an' heist them up. In the balyard an' heist them up, an' pit ither twa on top o' the wheel-hoose. There wis a clippie jist at the back o' the licht reflector, ye ken. Bit inside it wis jist a paraffin lampie, jist like ye wid hae in the hoose, aye, wi' a wick an' a glass, wi' a green licht on the starboard side an' a reed ane, aye jist a shade. That wid be the important thing. Oh aye, that wis the licht. Till the electric came on the go. We got the electric aifter that. Even then, some o' the scaffies used steam. Steam dynamoses that they hid then afore the electric, oh aye, afore they got in tae deisel like.

Q. How did you do your forecasting? How did you forecast the weather?

A. Weather forecasting? Oh, ye only got it along wi' a fishin' bulletin. Roon about 12 o'clock, or half past. Roon aboot denner time ye got it, aye. There wis jist the one. If ye mist it then ye hid had it, there wis anither ane aboot six o'clock again, something like that. There wis twa a day or something like that. Bit it wis jist a receiver that ye hid, there wisnae nae transmitters in that day, an' if ye lost it at that time, weel.... Ach the wireless was jist a box wi' a weet battery an' a dry battery. An' there was a great big horn, an' ye hid tae tune in the horn, sometimes ye hid yer lug hookin' the aireals. That wis the excuse fin ye didnae get onythin' through. Bit the auld lads wis pretty good in they days wi' the sky. They kent the weather by the sky an' that, the clouds an' these things. An' even watchin' the birds. Ye ken, the birds washin' themsel's an' cleanin' themsel's, an' a' that kin' o' stuff. That a' came in tae their repertoire, like, aye, the auld lads. We didna' ken aboot that kin' o' things 'cause we wis younger, we didna' bather, ye see. Bit the auld lads kent, they kent by the different clouds, fan it wis gaun tae rain an' fit wey the win' wis gaun tae ging, an' if the win' wis gaun tae shift an' a' that kind things. An' oot win', that wis considered a northerly win', ye see, an' in win's, that wis a southerly win'. Goat's hair in the sky, an' that.

Q. Fit in the sky?

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A. Goat's hair - clouds. That wis considered a southerly win'.

Q. Wis it?

A. Oh aye, that wis a' southerly win'. An' if they sa' the north lyin' clear, that wis gaun tae be southerly win'. That wis an indication. That wis in the sail boat days, they didna' like tae see a pea green sky in the mornin'. That wis a gale o' win' - a sign o' win'. Red sky at night. George Cowie I wis wi', aye, he wis in the galley.

Q. Wis that 'Codlin'?

A. No, 'Pum'. George 'Pum'.

Q. I ken George Cowie 'Codlin'.

A. Wha wis he?

Q. Fae Gordon Street.

A. Is that him that wis in the factory?

Q. Mhum.

A. He wis niver at the sea.

Q. No, bit he got it fae his father he said. He wis usually accurate wi' his weather forecasts.

A. I widna thocht that noo.

Q. No bit he is.

A. I widna thocht 'Codlin' himsel' wid hae been anything. He wis a deckie wi' ma father an' them. Aye, near a' his time. An' I widna thocht he wid a been. Maybe he wid a' repeated whit he heard ither lads sayin'.

Q. Aye, that's fit I'm sayin'. Whit actions did ye take in severe weather and storms if ye were caught out in the sea?

A. Oh, there's nae an afa' lot ye quid dae except slack oot mair rope. If ye wis lyin' at the nets, a' ye could dae wis pit oot mair rope an' gie her a chain. If ye wis steamin', the only thing ye could dae wis jist dodge, that's a'. Nod yer heid in til't, that's a' ye can dae. Ye see, ye bent down the end o' a chain. Ye jist hid tae ride on the rope that ye hid, ye see. That wis the rope that wis tied tae the nets ye ken. Ye eased tae slacken the heid till ye got a shackle, if ye hid ane atween the nets, like, an' ye slackened oot, an' ye got in a chain in til't, an' ye slackened it oot so's the rope wis slack an' the chain wis tight, in alow the watter. It widna'

come oot the water. Na, it widna' come oot the water. It wid jirk an' be liable tae brack. The wecht o' the chain an' a' thing. Ye canna' dae much in severe weather if ye're steaming round, ye jist have tae ease the boat back an' jist let her go. Bit if you kent the weather was comin' awa', if you hid an idea that the weather wis' comin' awa', weel, ye wid g'awa an' haul yer nets an' try an' get ashore. If ye couldna' get ashore, weel ye jist hid tae dodge her, that's a'. Ye ken, if it wis too bad for steamin'. Ye jist dodged her up through the win', ye kept her mizzen up an' kept her up through the win'. Ye kept her through the win' a' the time. There wis naethin' else ye quid dae. I've niver seen't that ye couldna' steam, for a' that. Nae in the drifters. No. I've seen's lyin' on oor broadside on trawlers, bit, then again, that wis jist jist lyin' on the fishin' grounds, an' ye wisna gaun tae steam ashore. Bit, then again, ye wis awa' for maybe eight, ten days at that time ye see, an' ye couldna' rin oot an' in. Ye jist let the boat lie on broadside, an' jist let her swing back an' fore. Steam on a bit an' jist let her lie, keepin' her position. Fin I wis at the seine net, ye couldna' wirk in the wither, ye jist let her lie, till ye quid wirk, steam up a bittie an' jist let her lie. Aye, there wis naethin' ye quid dae.

Q. An' fit were yer wages like?

A. Well, in that time o' day?

Q. Mhum.

A. A pun' a week we got as cook, an' the firemen got thirty shillin's. Fin ye wis deckie, ye went on to share. There wis lots o' times yer share cam' tae nithin' at a' at the end o' the fishin', 'cause, afore a'body got pied oot, an' ee' got fit wis left, that wis naethin'. There wis naethin' left tae pairt. That couldna' ve guin on for fourteen weeks, an' feenished up, ye got naethin' at a', nae even a poun'. Ye wis awa' tae Yarmouth for eicht weeks. That wis the general run. Ye guid awa' ony time aifter Armistice Sunday min'. Aye, ony time aifter the eleventh. The bad weather eased tae set in there, an' the boats eased tae come awa' hame then. An' that wid hae been about eicht weeks there, an' ye micht jist be the very same. Ye michtna' get onythin' at a'. If ye wis lucky enough, ye could maybe mak' somethin' oot o't at Yarmouth. I think it wis a' spent on presents onyway, a present tae this ane an' a present tae that ane, it wis a' left ahin' ye. Yarmouth did a' richt oot o't. Yarmouth made a lot o' money, atween fit the men spent on groceries an' coal, an' fit wis spent on a Saturday nicht. That wisna' much. Fit wis't? About half-a-crown a week, we got, tae spent? Aye. Ye hid tae buy a week's fags oot o' that, five bob a week. Fit wis the picters, saxpence? An' there wis a lot o' picters. That wis a good do for his kin' o' lads, 'cause, up here, we niver eased tae see the variety shows. Maybe three, fower, five, aye, sax

or siven picter hooses. An' there wis twa variety hooses mine? There wis the Hippodrome an' thon ane roon the front - the Aquarium, aye, three. Aye an' there wis the roller skatin' an' that. Aye there wis great night life. Aye, I wid say that, smashin'. Aye, there wis a lot o' money left doon there, a' the same. Aye, they did a' richt aff o' us. There wis a big fliet o' boats it that time see, aye the quines wis doon there an' a ye see, they spent a good lot o' money, lot o' things they cwed buy chaiper doon there thit were dearer up here. Mine ther wis that big shop - Arnolds. its nae there noo, fit's in its place noo? The market! Wis it still there fin we were last doon there? No, they said it wis awa'.

Q. So that's what you did when you were off duty?

A. Picters. That's what we did. Picters on a Saturday night. (In the boats she says), oh off duty? Ye geed awa' tae yer bed. Long 'oors ye were tired.

Q. You had long hours had you?

A. Oh yes, sometimes haulin' four tae twelve 'oors dependin' in the weather an' dependin' in the herrin'. You got some afa' hauls ye wis fae aiy side tae the ither. Starn aside an' ye hid sails halt aff an' starn yer starn. Everything wis hauled by han' ye see, ther wis twa lads on the deck haulin', an' four lads on a rope, an' athin' wis halt by han', nae metter fit ye did, they'd shack the deck. Twa lads shack the net quick so you a' hid tae be at the same time ye couldna' hae. Aiy lad shacken an' another lad hailin', 'cause that wis a hole in the net. It wis a case o' hail o'er an' shack the net, hail o'er an' shack the net till ye got it in, it wis murder. In them days ye hidna' lees or nithin', a' ye hid wis this ^{leeder} ~~litte~~ rope, tied on tae the fit o' the nets ye ken, tae stop her. It hid its ain stoppers on it so ye hove 'er up an' each net hid its ain stopper, an' that kind o' eased the rope a bit, bit ye hid tae hail her oot the water wae yer hands. Oh no, no no, the stopper wis take richt tae Capstain, ye hailed it up sine, o'er yer heed, that wis it, bit ye'd maybe hae some'dy say, meetin', 'mine the nets'? A mile lang ye see, the nets. The winter time I suppose ye worket fourty five, fifty nets. Streps o' nets an' ropes wis shot, three strips fourteen strips an' strapped the anchor see. Drappet the anchors, an' threw the nets an' left them, drappet anither puckle an' left them. In the mornin' hailt them up. different fishin' then, same idea, different method. Ye see when you know the sea, you could shot the stripa mile lang. Lochs ye see, were different, inside the lochs, if they were ootside, oh you could shot a' the ropes ootside. Lochs wis a strip here an' a strip there, if ye shotted them a' ye cwedna move. If ye come back next day, ye jist picket up the bows an' started haulin'. An' it wis freezeen, did ye mine? Brakin' the ice steamin' the boat up an' doon the fresh water. A good bit o' fresh water. I mine aiy time I wis in the 'Oberanie' aiy winter wae the 'Seaforth'.

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Fit wis the first ane? Oh the 'Airisort', we broke the ice, we went tae turn the net, we hid tae haul the ice, I heard them sayin' it was the only time they iver saw't. Oh ye'd some wierd doo's it the hairbor, oh you'd some awfa' doo's. It wis the only time we iver saw't. The cook hid tae kiel a' the ropes see. He wis doon wae a box tae 'im sale. Eight o' clock at nicht we started tae haul till eight o' clock in the mornin'. Twelve 'oors, shot the nets. Five cran o' herrin' thats aboot twenty pasture o' herrin' the net. We went awa' up tae Stornowa', we started tae chairge at 12 o'clock in the day, 12 o'clock it nicht or we feenished. 8 o'clock on Friday nicht we started, then it wis 12 o'clock Saturday nicht or we feenished. We wis richt roon aboot an' we'd nae stop. Ye wis aiy dein' somethin' either menin' nets or chairgin' or whitiver. We got £2 a cran that's ~~£4 the cran~~ that's four baskets. Aye herrin' baskets. Ye hid tae work in those days an' ye niver got much returns. The first herrin' cran I saw in Lerwick, we dumpet them. They worket them then sheeled them o'er the side an' geed awa' oot for mare.

Q. How was that like?

A. 'Cause there wis nae market. Wedna' buy them there. O'er muckle herrin'. An' for a time they couldna' han'le them. They didna' buy them. Ye'd ging oot again, see, if you got them sailt or try some ither wey, or somethin' again, go oot an' dump them. You niver got nithin' for them, thats fit it wis, see. Nae compensation then. Aye, its true though. It wis a waste o' manpower an' it wis a waste a fish it the same time. You was catchin' fish, if it hid been regulated, like it is noo, it did come tae that eventually, half the fleet went at one time. One nicht an' half the fleet went the ither nicht. Either that or reduce the nets per man, hae five nets per man aefter the war ye hid three shots per week. Well, that's fit ye were supposed tell. Or maybe six nets per man, seven nets per man, dependin' on hoo much fish there wis like. Fit dae ye ca' thone Broch mannie he regulated aefter the war mine? They regulated it aefter the war. It wis a better idea because abody ca'in a haul oot an' ye maybe got in three shots in a week thit ye wid hae tae dump if ye didna get them sailt. It didna' aiy work that wey like bit it could've. Wait tae we see, hoo lang did we gang aefter the war, tae the herrin' then geed awa' tae the seine nets? Aye well they grew that scare an' athing thit the herrin' drifter's faded oot. Aye. Ye started tae ging tae the seine net an' it wis mare o' a steady job, it wis a weekly job. Ye got a weekly wage like. Fin the herrin' time came, ye didna' bather stoppin' an' gan' tae the herrin' ye jist kept on goin' tae the seine net a' the year roon. We geed tae Yarmouth a pickle times....we didna ging back again aefter that. Of course in that days it wis a' cuttin' nets ye see then they come on tae nylon aefter that. A lot o' boats geed tae herrin' aefter a' thone. By they gradually came noo fin Yarmouth fizzled oot a' the gither there wis nae fish at a'. In that days the hale river eest tae be

full o' boats. It wid be full, aboot a thoosan' boats, baith sides. A thoosan' boats fishin' in Yarmouth for herrin'. Imagine that gan up an' doon a river. A thoosan' drifters! Fae a' wey, all there. Stornowa', Lerwick, aye, fae Buckie, Banff, Broch, Macduff. A' the wae doon, aye as far sooth as St Minin's. An' M.L's. An' there wis thone Mary Swanson an' them. A' English boats an' a' like, ye ken. Big fleet o' them, big fleet in Yarmouth, an' that wis them gan' in an' oot a' the time, an' you were sayin' there must have been a lot o' cash aye turned o'er aiy wey or ither. (There must have been). Maist o't wis left there. Wis ye iver in ane o' the boats tickin' coal oot o' Lerwick, Shields? Aye, aye I wis in the we did the first year in the Leerick. Ye rade up a' yer nets an' tied them up in bundles for tickin' them hame an' ye hid an' open howl so ye spread them a cover o'er, 'cause there wis wee holies in the howl for water gan' oot for runnin' doon in tae the so it widna' scale yer herrin'. So ye hid tae keep them dry, so ye got a' this a' mucket up like, ken. In tae Shields or Blyth an' ye got ten ton o' coal ye see. A ton a man, ye see. Fourteen an' six sometimes a ton. So ye ken hoo much wages a miner got in that days. Noo this wis for tickin' hame an' we eest tae tick it hame here sine ye shuffled it oot in tae bags, an' geed oot wae a ton tae abody. Oh that wis a big oh in that days ye hid tae wait on't ye see. For twenty bags a' coal, fourteen an' six. The sma' stuff wis chaiper it wis twelve an' six. See gan in the drifter's, ye hid tae gang in there gan' sooth ye see, ye geed in there see an' got cheap coal. Ye fult 'er up, she wis full tae the wheel hoose. Roon the deck an' away wae coal. An' full below. An' see if ye got a coorse passage fae Shields tae Yarmouth, the wheel- hoose wis oor the side washed awa'. Ye didna' aften get that like. Ye'd twa days tae get up there like. Eighteen, twenty 'oors tae Yarmouth, ye hidna' far tae go. It wis fit, sometimes fourty four 'oors tae Yarmouth an' twenty six 'oors fae Shields. Then the rest to go tae Yarmouth, aye, eighteen twenty 'oors. It wis nae far, no. It wis fit aboot half mile an' 'oor ye cwed say. That wis good enough speed like bit that wisna drivin' the boat. 'Cause the harder ye drove her the mare coal ye burnt ye see. Ye jist wis makin' a passage so ye jist made her a comfortable speed. Ye hid tae get there it the same time like. Ye cwedna daddle too much aither. Aefter ye geed o'er Flamborough Rocks ye wis aboot it. Some coorse days there an' a' though. Some wicked weather. A lot o' boats comin' in wae that south, south-eastern win'. Ye were gan' afore the motion, some o' the boats geed up the back the....mine an' she niver come aff. The first year we wis sooth yon boat turned turtle, dae ye nae mine? Oh aye, the 'Olive Branch'. She lost twa boats, Peterheed ane. Aye she tum'led right o'er, comin' ashore.

Q. Why was that?

A. Hampered wae ^{water} wither ye see, she geed richt o'er. Ye see ye got a lot o' that haze an' that, aye, ye hid tae look oot for

buoys an' san' banks an' athing see. The auld lads wis very good it that I wed say, the auld lads. Oh aye, they were very good at navigation the auld lads. They hid nane o' this gage^{ts} thit they hive noo adays a' they hid wis a compass an' a watch an' they timed her, ye ken, hoo fast the boat wis gan' an' fit a wey the tide wis runnin', they were very, very good I wid say. Aye if there wis ony doubt, if they couldna' see nithin' there wis a han' line ye ken, an' they jist drapped it in tae the water. If there wis ony doubt at a' the hail crew wis for it,, it came quiet, ye got a hud o' the nets, driver an' fireman. Abody for it see. The traffic doon there an' ah ye see, big ships, big boats, aye, big ships. Ken up an' doon the coast-line, ken. Ye eest tae get an afa' bather steamin' across an' a'. Aye wae the amount o' boats. Oh aye. Aye wae the fleets o' nets. 'Cause there wis thoosan's a nets then ye ken, in the water it the same time. Aye, bows a' o'er the place. We were aiy feert we wid catch the propeller.

Q. Fit were your conditions like an' your life aboard the boat?

A. Oh aye, the ship-mates, we hid a' good ship- mates. Well they hid tae be because abody wis bidin' in the same... we wis a' the gither see, fin ye got oot yer bed ye sat at the table, ye niver hid tae waken' nae mannie, ye wis aye placed. Oot o' aiy room in in tae anither room an' better than the hoose. Yer feet wis on the table. The cook wis doon makin' afore ye went oot taework, yer feet wis on the table an' athing.

Q. Fit like were yer cookin' an' galley conditions?

A. Now. Well the gelley wisna very big. The engine room, that's doon tae the engine room. The cabin wis aff o't, it wis, an' the stoves wis stuck in the corner, coal stoves ye see, it wis coal stoves. A pot-hole on each side an' that's a', that's a' the ventilation. Ye hid tae ging ootside for yer water ye'd nae water in the gailley. Some boats hid bit it wis jist ootside the gailley door. Ye bile't a' yer ain water ye see, an' if ye wis frying thirty, fourty heerin' in the mornin' in pans yer een wis, I'na ken, it wis blue wae reek. Bit ither wise it wis a' richt, it wis a bit primitive. The ^{foke} ~~show~~ wis that high it took ye tae lift the ~~boat~~ ^{pot} aff, it took ye half an 'oor tae meeve it, especially that Broch boats 'cause they wis hid ain a' yon great big cast iron ^{legs}. It wis jist soup an' stew an' mince an' very good like, otherwise rice puddin' an' ye hid tae leave the pot tae the last minute afore ye took it doon, unless it wis an' awfa' bonnie day an' you got bidden doon below. Eat it oot the dish ye see. Denner time ye hid a ^{jam} ~~jam~~ cloot on the table hit wis saokin' weet ye see, 'cause ye cwedna move the thing, aye ye hid tae jam it up ye see. Ye hid three sticks ye eest tae pit in, ain it the fit an' twa across. Same size as a plate. Ye eest tae try an' keep it fae movin' aboot. Ye hid aiy a weet cloot on the table jist for that so that things widna' slide or roll aboot. Then

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fin ye got your soup in hiddna a plate ye jist hid sup it oot usin' yer han' a' the time. Ye cwedna lay the plate doon on the table.

Q. Now your clothes, when you went away, did you tick a lot o' claithes wae ye an' if ye did, hoo did ye get them dried?

A. Dried? Ye stuck them up in the engine room. Well a' your inside clothes like. You took awa' a dose o' shirts in a bag, a black oil-skin bag. Four shirts a day. Four shirts ye eest tae tack? Aye. Then maybe aifter twa, ye sent them hame in a broon baggie. Then you got a baggie sent back. Bit ye'd aiy a spare twa. Oh some auld lads niver shifted for a month! Some o' that auld lads ye see, ainse in a month. Some o' them sent them hame, some o' them didna. That wis lin'ers an' sarks an' athin', there wisna dra'ers. They wisna like his, it wis ainse a month, they shifted. One shift an' ye sent it hame. Young lads eest tae shift cooks an' firemen, ye wis aiy hain' a wash 'cause ye were aiy sweitin' an' gan' ony wey. It wis jist in a bucket like. It's a that ye got? Some o' yon distilled water, nae distilled, condensed, aye, oot o' the condenser, an' it wis hate. It came back through the engine back in tae the condenser. Eest tae wash in it. If ye were in Stornowa' an' that places, mine ye got a shower, mine we used tae go up tae...? Oh aye, bit that wis aefter the war. Fine places there far ye cwed go up there an' get a bath, nithin' in Stornowa' afore the war aither. They hid sailor's homes an' that aefter that like. Oh fool Maggie's wis the only place thit wis open in Sunday ony wey. Bar the kirk.

Q. Who was Maggie?

A. The shoppie in Stornowa', she wis that fool, we cawd her fool Maggie. Athin' wis ingrained ye ken. DIRTY!

Q. Did you have safety first, first-aid?

A. Well, jist a wee boxie ye hid wae twa, three bandages, that's a'. Cough mixture an' elastoplast. Maybe the skipper mannie hid a drappie spirits in his bed, that wis a' ye saw o't ye niver seen't it wis niver on the table. There wis twa three a' yon fit dae ye caw't, morphine? Morphine, incase o' onybody that's aiy thing ye niver saw, ye niver saw nae drink, nae at that time, nae on the boat, a lad wid maybe go ashore tae hae a drink at the weekend bit I niver saw nain in the boat. Apairt fae the fact they cwedna' afford it ony wey. The skipper aiy hid a suppy for medicinal purposes. A drappie put in alow his pilla or somethin' like that. That's a', ye niver saw it. Bit it wis jist the time, it wis jist the thing thit ye did. Of course, ye ken better noo ye see. We've seen gan' through the different boats in the fishin' even we see a big improvement noo, even in the seine net fishin'. We eest tae hail a' the ropes awa' fae the winch an' stick them on noo that's a' on tae reels an' comin' back aff the reels, we used

tae tick them a' up on the deck an' twa keils so they cwedna' run back oot again. In fact yer portside ye hid tae turn them. Turn them in portside, incase athin' wid run awa'.... They hae noo, jist a reel, they're on the reel an' afa' lot o' less work. There's a lot o' changes. It the time, ye niver thocht about it because it wis jist the done thing. It's the same as the lads gan' in the sail boats ye see. They cwedna pit on an engine ahead like we cwed wae steam engines. Even then ye see, that wis an advancement, compared tae the lads thit wis it the sail boats ye ken. An' they must have hane an awfa' life o't. Fin we geed awa', we fished up the line 39 that's fin we geed awa' tae the herrin' aefter that, an' there wis nae muckle difference for a twa, three year. Nae the fishin' side o't, there wis a wee bit o' regulation. The only thing wis, some o' them hid telephones it that time, they come on. Then they got the actual fishin' jist the same, the same idea. Then they got yon call link through the idea far ye cwed get thone cross bearin's an' that helped a bit tae find your positions. Noo they've got decca an' radar an' athing noo ye see which is a big, a big help. Coastal stations ashore, the main ains it Bangor, far's the ither ane at? There wis ane in this country bit far wis it at? Wis it nae in Northumberland some wey? Doon aboot there some wey. Aye, fit de ye caw that station there? An' there wis ane in the west coast. An' ye could get a beam ye counted the pips like. It came fae the various stations an' that gave ye an idea ye wes, intercepted. Ye kent far ye wis in the sea, ye got that in your chart. Same wey as they hive decca charts noo. You got three corks, a green ane a red ane an' a purple ane. An' ye jist took the readin's aff o' that an' took it tae the chart ye see. Ye could go back tae the exact same place as ye wes the day before. Even steam ashore, land the fish an' go back oot tae the same place far ye wis. In oor day, you cwedna' dae that, ye ran your course an' yer distance. Then you micht be gan aff wae a ... tide aiy day an' a flat tide another day, southerly wind micht be the same wae as the tide aiy day an' northerly, the opposite wae o' the tide, ye jist hid tae an guage this an' ye jist hid tae work sometimes wae jist a han' like tae get the depth o' the water. Bit if ye got 45 ye wid say o' the, 45 an' ye cwed be fifty mile oot. Bit noo if your fishin' roon aboot an' you catch a wreck, say its a place ye hidna been afore, you catch a wreck an' your up an' doon the wreck, you tick the readen's o' the wreck noo, you winna catch that wreck again noo, ye wid watch fit ye'r dein'. Noo in the aulden days ye didna ken exactly far ye wis. Noo ye ken chart oot a coorse an' a tow, the time yer towin' tae ging up an' doon an' by wrecks an' maybe by bits o' grun' or whatever, close tell't or whitiver, dependin' the wey the tide is. Ye'd get a bittie closer like if the tides on tell't. You've got tae keep aff o' that sort o' thing. A lot o' changes noo ye see. An afa' lot o' them wis jist pot luck an' thinkin' ye wis far ye wis like. Even though you wed be towin' through the win', mine John sometimes? Oh aye. Ye shot at the seine net an' ye got in yer hale an' ye got a good enough hale well ye steamed awa' back through the win' again. Aye ye

thocht ye were awa' back the same wey. Aefter we got in the decca, we found instead o' gan' through the win' we hid tae go to go awa' back the ither wey. We wisna near far we wis at. Noo ye see they can shot if they a good hale here they can go back tae that bittie, we cwed niver dae that afore. Unless ye saw the land bit if ye were in the belly o' the sea ye niver saw the land. Ye thoct ye wis towin' through the win' yet ye hid a good bet through the win' an' ye ran back afore the win'. Bit ye cwedna', ye hid tae go wa' back throught the win' again. Through the win' fin you put her in tae fast gear, the boat come back, so you'd back afore the win' tae ging. We wis gan' back thinkin' we'd towed up a' this like ye ken. Different a' the gither noo. Ye cwed gang a lang time, ye cwed lose a lot o' gear jist gan tae places far ye hidna' been afore, cane afore you could get in tell't, far nooadays ye widna lose a net in a hale year.

Q. Ye widna go? Did ye hae a lot o' time at home?

A. Well, atween the fishin's, if ye wis jist workin' the heerin' afore the war o aye. Nae aefter the war, afore the war aye. Fin the seine net came on the go, no no. Ye jist changed o'er. Fit time did ye stop the the....? The herrin'? We geed awa' tae the herrin' in the month o' June, ye geed awa' doon tae Shetland till the end o' August, September. A lad in the Broch fa they cawd Christmas Charlie, an' he niver came oot o' Yarmouth till Christmas time every year. That's the by-name they gave him. They gave him the by-name Christmas Charlie. In fact there wis some o' the boats used tae go across tae the French side tae Sandainie, nane o' them oor boats used tae dae that. Bit there wis a curn o' Broch lads an' Peterheed men an' south firth an' I geed tae Sandainie. Bit nane o' oor boats, there wis one or two thit tried it. Afore we started there wis some o' oor boats used tae run tae Wyemuten in Holland, instead o' gan' back tae Yarmouth. I it depends far they were workin'. Depends far they were workin'. If they were further off, a lang wae tae the back o' the nol.. east ye see, east tae nol it wis jist as quick tae maybe ging tae Holland, get a price, that's why they went tae Wyemuten. It's nae far across ye see.

Q. Once your there, I suppose no?

A. Aye, then if we wis awa' maybe twenty thirty mile it the back the nol ye hidna afa' far tae ging ye see, its nae far fae East Anglia nae a' the gither. I wis niver there.

Q. What about your boat maintenance? Who did your boat maintenance?

A. The crew's did maist o' it themselves. The crew painted a' the boat. Put her on tae the slip, ye got the top an' bottom sides deen on the slip, an' if she wanted twa three nails, or a string'r tae sort her up. Aye, bit there wis some eest tae dae

their ane boat themselves. Aye. Oh aye in the foosee, if painten the boat, ye did it yersel'es. Ye hid nae money tae paint an' the chief he packet a' the glan's, unless it wis an afa' big job an' the slip lads wid come doon. Bit as far as swingin' bottom ends an' things like they did a' that themselves. If there wis pistons or liners an' that sort o', rings an' that things like that, that wis a slip job like because it wis a big job. The chief did maist o' the thingies 'an sell. A' the boilers, capstain an' athin', painted the capstain afore the fishin' started. An' it did a hale summer fishin'. Hit niver broke doon, jist gave her a drappie oil, that's a'. She niver broke doon the capstain, no jist kept there a' the time. Oh I would say that. That steam engines.....they niver needed a lot o' menin', that steam engines they note very little did they? No, they were very good. Very reliable. They niver note muckle at a'. Of course there's some o' this motor's like that noo, oh aye. It depends on the man thit's there if it's a conscientious man that's lookin' aefter the engine, you've nae trouble. Some boats is niver oot o' trouble ye see. A' they dae is start them an' stop them, ye see. They dinna bather. They thinks athin' is gan' well, bit its jist a case o' gettin' a slip lad doon. Bit if ye ken if things is gan' wrang an' hoo lang they've been runnin' ye ken the time tae chinge them afore they dev brake doon an' if you've got spares aboard an' you can de this that keeps the thing goin'. Same as ye dae wae a car ye see.

Q. Jist a regular service?

A. Mhum! Aye, oh aye, ye looket it the engines an' athin' yer sel' ye see. We used tae clean the blackston every year, twa o'es. Aye oor twa sel's. We used tae tick doon an' pit in new rings an' athing oorselves. An' we wis faichten' like twa cats till it wis deen. Ane it aiy side an' ane tae the ither. That's right aye. Changed pumps like. Ye didna ken nithin' aboot engines I dinna ken nithin' aboot engines yet. I would say, the only thing that time we didna bit the wifes would ken we were in the engine room 'cause oor claites were jist black as oil. That time we cleaned the engines. We eest tae change them like than an' yer knees wis black mine? Aye, through your dungarees an' troosers. Black oil.

Q. An' peer Annie hid tae wash them?

A. Aye, an' nae washers, sinks. In the tub, a board. Then fin they hid their re-fit, once a year we eest tae wash the boat's curtains, an' a' their bedden. An' the blankets, ye eest tae shew them again. An' ye geed doon an' scrubbed oot the boat. Oh aye, ye geed doon an' scrubbed oot a' the boat. Scrubbet the galley an' the cabin an' athing. That wis thirty year ago bit gradually we stoppet. I mine scrubbin' the boat an' climin' in tae the beds. We scrubbit the lot, aye. Healthiest work, aye! Four quines.

Q. I hope you appreciated it?

A. They got pied. Oh aye, we got ten bob an' a bottle a lemonade an' a biscuit. Ten bob, ten shillin's. There wis Annie an' Ina an' Meta an' Nell, Janet Murray, mine? Four an' five o'es. Newer boats see noo, that's afore my time. They eest tae go doon in tae the drifters, aye. It wis a regular thing the drifters. Aye, an' if ye were doon in the like o' Lerwick or workin' Shetland the summer time, sometimes we used tae ging doon wae quines doon tae their denner. Aye, in Yarmouth, and in Shetland. Aye, hame quines like! Kent them, used tae go doon wae denner tae some o' them. In a crew, maybe three quines, maybe sax quines. There wis three in a crew ye see. Their denner on a Sunday. Annie wisna at it, the wife she wis in Lerwick, she wis niver in Yarmouth.

Q. Noo, hid ye any superstitions?

A. There is some. There wis a lot o' lads hid. It didna bather me, it didna bather his. Some lads hive yet. It niver bathered me. There wis some lads believed, they widna sail on a Friday. They sail ony time noo. An' if a lad wis gan' doon tae the hairbour carryin' 'es bag an' he met a minister or onythin' like that he'd turn awa' back. He widna ging. Black cats an' things like that they'd turn awa' back. There wis a lot o' superstition. Nae some much noo as there wis in the drifters days. I think they were worse in sail-boat days. O mighty aye, by auld accounts like. An' they used tae come oor on a Monday mornin' maybe hid a big week the week before an' borra'd somethin' aff o' him ye ken thinkin' thit he wis gan' tae get some work among them. I'll tell ye fit happened tae his ainse, this wis in Yarmouth an' this wis aefter the war. This lad wis awfa' superstitious, of course Buckpool is awfa' superstitious, an' we wis gan' doon the river ay sunday mornin' an' there wis a Gamrie boat come up oor starn, an' he says 'fit time es't?' an' I tell't him fit time it wis an' I happened tae say fin' I geed ootside, an' they cawd me athin'. Aye they said ye winna see a herrin' the hale week an by we didna. We niver got a herrin' the whole bloomin' week till Friday. We got a big shot on Saturday. That wis the "Convenger" wisn't it? Aye. That boat hid a big week right enough. We hid a good week it the end like, nithin' till Friday. That's the kind o' things ye see, well I speered the time they were needin' tae, they widna tell ye the time. No! Nae on a Monday mornin', no. They thocht that's fit ye wis needin' tae dee. Tick awa' his luck. Aye, it's true. If ye wis dein' weel they wid speer the time on a Monday mornin' an' if ye asked a spunk fae a lad on Monday mornin' tae licht yer fag, he widna've geen ye ain. No, nae on a Monday. If ye speered ony ither day socht the lane o' a scoop or onythin', no, they wid gae ye it ony ither day bit widna' gae ye it on a Monday. Nae at the start o' the week, oh no. Afa' superstitious that wey. That time o' day like. They dinna bather wae that noo though. There is a twa three lads, there's ain or twa lads like that

yet, aye. Gowan's yon'er he's pretty... bit it's jist fit he thinks. It niver bathert me things like that. If a thing wis gan' tae happen then it wid happen. I didna' cane aboot it, it that time. It wis aefter the war, aye, aefter the war. I wis marriest. An' I wis gan' doon the river that time an' I jist cried doon tae Willie Jappy in the engine-room, I says 'fit time est Willie?' I wis ha' in a cup o' tae an' Willie says 'fit ye wanten' tae ken the time for thone time?', I says 'oh a lad in the boat's stem is speerin', they hinna a clock', I got cawd athing, he says 'we'd be as weel gan' awa' back tae the haibour'. Aye, that's the wae they dive though. We wis niver in the hale week fae Monday tae Friday. Then on the Friday we got that fed-up thit Willie Fairmer on the Friday says 'ach, we'll ging awa' north'. So we went awa' north tae Walesan' we come in among a doze a dutchmen, it wis aboot nine o'clock in the mornin' ye ken, oh an' this dutchmen wis hailin' solid herrin', we took up a birth an' shot doon, an' we wis hailin' again at five o' clock it nicht. Well we wis in the river in Saturday mornin' wae 170 cran afore breakfast time. That wis a big week see, that. Sine I said tae him 'fit aboot the superstition noo?' Oh bit they'd aiy a wae o't that boat hid aiy a big week. Some lads wid try the hale week an' nae git nithin' ye ken. Run roon the boat wae burnin' claeves ye ken. Oh aye, celebrate ye ken. Oh aye they were aiy burnin' the claeve at the end o' the week. Droll lads! Some lads richt superstitious. We niver thocht nithin' aboot it bit we were younger lads see. Especially wae his bein' in the navy an' athing ye see.

Q. Now hid ye any funny stories?

A. Funny stories. Well no nae funny, nae it that time, ye caipered a bit an' geed bit ye wis. There wis nae jokin' aboot oor boats. Nae funny stories, certainly funny crews! Some o' the Allan's I'll tell ye, they got up tae some afa' things, some o' that auld lads the like o' Gack an' some o' that auld lads an' that. The aulden days like, bit in oor times, nae sae much. Oh no, no. Bit that auld lads they eest tae get up tae some afa' tricks. Mine the time thit Joe Birrel's wife aiy drippin' aboot ye ken, aiy time he hid a poor kind, he hid a lean kin' o' summer or somethin' like that, an' he wis awa' tae Yairmooth an' folk used tae come doon tae see him gan' awa' ye ken, a' the faimly eest tae come doon an' see them gan' awa' it wis high water an' they got aboard tae see the boat ye see, the drifter like, bonnie painted an' athing she wis an' in tae the wheelhoose tae get a look, ye jist got her in tae the wheelhoose an' ye shut the door 'right noo Muggie, see fit ye can dae', her man ye see. He wisna gettin' big enough fishin'. That wis John.

Q. Now fin ye first got married, how much wis yer wages?

A. Fit wis it £5 or £10. Nae fin ye were merriest. That's fin ye were deckie. No, she's speakin' aboot fin ye were marriest.

Q. When you first got married what was your wage? Did you have a wage?

A. Oh no, if ye got double figures, ten or eleven a poun', it wis a good week, it wis actually fives an' six's or seven's, wisn't it John? Aye. Somethin' like that. I've seen in Aberdeen fin ye got twenty that wis a good week, if ye got twenty poun'. That wis a richt big week. Aye that wis a good week that ain. We used tae say if we got anither ain like that we'd get merriet. You eest tae get the brew, your fortnight ashore it wis £2, £2.20 or somethin'. If the boat wis tied up, maybe this time o' the year maybe for three weeks. That's right bit if ye wis maybe gan' in an' oot here the winter time it wis eight or seven poun' ye got. If ye got ten or twelve poun' that wis a good week. Fourteen poun' wis really a good week. It gradually geed up till ye got twenty. Bit noo, its awa' in hun'ers. We worket Aberdeen the summer time an' that wis the regular wages gan' fae Aberdeen. Nae broken time like workin' fae the Broch, nae broken time ye see. I eest tae ging doon every Sunday nicht. Ye see this hairbour eest tae be full o' trawlers awa' back in the aulden days. Sometimes ten days, twenty one days wisn't it? Trawlers in ten days the winter, they appeared the time thit the big freeze thit the "Cyclonie"? an' a' them wis lost, the "Darl" an' them wis in Buckie twenty one days. There wis a big German come in on us. Aye that boatie the "South Wind" they picket up the crew. My father wis in the "Rivier" that time it come in tae Buckie an' tied it the light hoose, that's as far as it wid gin', the hairbour wis full. Three boats thit hid tae clear oot, I wis jist fourteen, afore the war. That wid have been about 1935, '34 or there aboot. Oor first year it the sea wis 1936. We wis fourteen year auld. That wis durin' the depression. Abody wis poorly paid, naibody hid nithin' that wis the average ye see. Even lads workin' ashore, painters an' that kind o' things they were short in the slips, they hardly got onything. Nae wages o' nae kin'. Mine the battle o' Macduff they geed awa' the year afore the war an' they geed as far as Macduff an' there wis a shoppie on fae the coopers some parties, an' they were a' hame it nicht, that wis the battle o' Macduff. They marched doon the new brae doon tae the station. Pat Cormack an' them Pat Cormack fae Portgordon put his hat on tae the side an' him jist tooter-oo! That's the, fit we cawd the battle o' macduff. That's the year afore the war started. That wis another one put o'er like fin ye wis six year it the war, aifter hain' that days. Ye geed awa' tae the war an' ye got fourteen shillin's the week. An' if ye got a shift, ye got fit they cawd hard layers ye got anither siven bob so that's twenty one shillin's ye got a week. Oot o' that ye hid tae mak' an' allotment it hame, at least seven shillin's, on that allotment a week. Ten bob on yer holiday, got yer twenty one bob. So ye ken fit we got for oor fortnicht, an' ye hid tae buy fags an' sugar an' athing wae that. Geed tae a dance! A lot o' blokes didna' come back aifter the fishin' though, they met up wae girls maybe aboot England. They used tae say o' he merriet

durin' the war an' he niver came back. Aye a lot met up wae that English weeman. Well, they kent there wis very little tae get as regards..... the bright lights! A few o' them bade in Lowestoft ye see, that's far the base wis. Aye for his kind o' lads. I wis marriet the year aifter the war ye see, 1946. Fan wis ye merriet? 1951. Oh it wis '46 fin I wis merriet, five year afore. Aye ye met a lot o' good ship-mates durin' the war for a' that. Oh aye, great ship-mates. I mine fin they come aboard, they didna ken a thing about boats or handlin' boats or..... they cwedna' even tie her up! The lads ye got aboard, ye ken ye maybe hid twa three lads thit hid been tae the sea through their life maybe, maybe a PO or a lean hand or a skipper ye ken. Oh there wis some good ship-mates. I wis mine-sweepin' a hale six year. Oh I wis only twa year. First twa year. Yer earlier experience stood ye in good stead then. Oh aye. Definately. Yes. Half that lads thit wis there couldna' steer, no. Fin we geed aboard that mine-sweeper an' there wis only four o'es iver seen a sweep shot. A fortnicht afore that. Skipper didna' ken fin they were shottin'. We wis learnt tae dae that afore an' that wis it. Twa days sweepin' an' eight 'oors sleep. That wis it, that wis you. That's hoo the navy wis run. Fin it came tae the fishin', that wis the back-bone o' the mine-sweepers. Aye a' this kin' o' lads fae ... they'd niver seen a boat. They picket it up mind you. John wis in Harrage, he swept fae Southend up tae Yarmouth. Aye. Now we swept fae the Humber, we swept fae Flamborough doon tae Yarmouth. I wis in Grimsby ye see. Back the war we jist came back tae the fishin' again. Aafter the herrin' drappet oot they started wae this great big boats for pursen' that wis the end o' oor time. That wis it.

Q. Like that great big boat they've got in the Broch is it, the Taits?

A. Aye, bit its a much easier wae a catchin' fish than fit we hid mind ye, it wis. For the herrin' like. oh aye. In one ring its fit the hale fleet would have tane in the west coast for a winters fishin' because the fish wis that doon sometimes an' ye hidna the levers an' ye wis shottin' the nets an' the nets wisna' gan' far enough doon to catch them. Underneath the nets ye see, they were nae catchin' very much. They thocht there wis nae fish there, there wis nae herrin', then they started... the herrin' wis there a' the time bit they niver put the nets far enough doon. Then they started lengthenin' the buoy ropes, pittin' the nets further doon.

Q. Ye niver made yer fortune anyway at the sea when you were young?

A. Did not, no. Pit it a' doon tae experience. Mine we're nae the war aff o't John? No. No ye see, I think we wis content wae very little in that days compared tae the folk thit there are noo. Folk thit's gan' noo need an' afa' lot mare besides his. Mare content, that's right. A contented mind.

Q. That's a lot to be thankfull for?

A. Oh aye. Well that's true, that's somethin' ye canna' buy. There's some o' this lads noo, it disna' maitter fit they get, they want mare. Of course as fast they get it, they spent an' they think they're gan' tae get the same again. In fishin' sometimes, ye hive good years an' ye hive bad years, an' ye've maybe a twa three year an' ye think o' it's nae gan' tae be bad again bit it declines. It's dein' that aiy now. A bit o' decline now, I think. I hope it's nae bit I think it is. The fish is gittin' scarcer. The young folk hive a lot more committments noosadays than we hid. An' they are in quotas aiy noo, tae gar them last the hale year. If you hive a big boat, oh you canna over all out an' fish for quotas. Ye need a lot o' fishin' for a big boat an' a'. Of course fin ye're on a quota, fit is't, seventeen ton noo the cod, 340 boxes for a month, that's nae a lot. That boats 'ill tick that in a hale.

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