



The Beverley Barge Preservation Society

Registered Charity No 1091733
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A BARGEE'S STORY

HAROLD'S STORY



Harold on board MV Goodluck In 1970 going up the River Don from Kilnhurst cut end

I left school at 15 years of age on Friday 24th March 1961 and started work on the barges with captain Cyril Lister, as mate on the MV Goodwill based at E.V. Waddington's boatyard at Swinton, South Yorkshire.

On Saturday morning, the 25th, we set sail for Hull loaded with coal for Hull gas house. We were often away from Monday morning to Saturday or even Sunday transporting all types of cargoes and places; wheat to Rotherham Mill (Rank Hovis), Mexborough Mill, all other cargoes carried for Waddingtons, Eastwood Wharf near Rotherham to Sheffield canal basin, Sammy Smith's flour mill at Bernard Road on Tinsley top level, also lots of other places over the river and canal network in the North of England.

One journey I remember well was while working for E.V. Waddington on the MV Onward - when I was made captain in 1966. It was a dark and foggy night near Brough when I was sunk loaded with coal en-route to Hull. Another barge, the MV Goodwill, collided with us and made a hole in our hull, i.e. first frame on the starboard side of the engine room. Fortunately the tide lifted us and put us further upon the shore near Brough Sluice. The next morning when daylight broke, I phoned Vic Waddington to tell him the unfortunate news. He came with some water pumps from the boatyard at Swanton, started to pump the water out of the hull and when pumped out filled the hole with quick drying cement. It was black in colour and set like iron. We dried the engine out and carried on our way to Hull on the next tide where proper repairs were carried out.



I left the canals in March 1973 for a shore job working down the pit near where I lived in the pit village of Edlington until the pit shut in 1986. From there I worked as a security guard in and around Doncaster.

Harold Rogers