



THE LONDON NAUTICAL SCHOOL



I remember the first time I went to The London Nautical School; I was 11 years, five months old in 1948. First day my mother and I went to school. Two buses, one tram and we arrived one hour and 20 minutes later. I remember asking my mother to please leave me at the corner; I was too embarrassed for the other boys to see me. I was in my sailor suit complete with bell bottom trousers, blouse, silks, lanyards and stops. I don't remember much of my first day in 2D with Mr Divall. I remember being placed in 1 Port. Being a new boy and being small for my age I couldn't see much of the school assemblies and in singing we had each morning. I

do remember one lad in particular, his name was Hargreaves I think, he always smiled at me but he was in the fourth or fifth form I think, far above me.

During the years I was at The London Nautical School I went on many school outings. I went on the Pennines trip, I think it lasted a week or two and it was a lot of fun. I went on two or three camping trips to the Devils Punchbowl and remember watching a film called the Vicar of Bray. We pretended to be commandos, dashing through the punchbowl with blackened faces. We went on two or three trips to France. I remember John Ross; he was my idol, chatting with the French girls! That was my first trip up the Eiffel Tower and to the Louver. I remember Fortune Fowler coming down the aisle on the bus and giving the boys 2 francs each spending money.



Some of the Grand Masters we had in my era were: Mr Fuest, Mr Stead, Capt. Harvey, Capt. Williams-Willis, Capt. Gibbs, Mr Simons, Mr Smith, Mr Dival and Fortune Fowler.



I remember with pride that day I received my prefect lanyard. They were bleak times as it was just after the war but I remember El Dorado ice cream factory, Masters cigarettes, the walk back from the swimming baths and the mad dash to Waterloo Station to catch the 4.15 train to Sanderstead.

"We had boat trips in our whalers, this is a photograph of SW on the River Thames".

I would love to hear from anyone that remembers me, please contact me via alumni@lms.org.uk