

Object Summary



Oral history of the Malta Dockyard: Manuel

Farrugia

Date

5 October 2022

Primary Maker

Manuel Farrugia

null

Dimensions

40 minutes, 10 seconds

null

Extent

1 digital audio recording (WAV)

Object Type

Oral history

null

null

Collection

Malta Dockyard Oral History project

Museum

Malta Maritime Museum

Registration Number

MMM.AV0115

Description

This recorded interview was made as part of the Malta Dockyard Oral History project by the Digitisation Unit, Heritage Malta, under the direction of Joe Meli. Manwel entered the yard in 1944 as labourer. His first work was with the inspectors and foremen of the Boiler Shop. He was promoted to skilled labour and eventually became Store houseman first in the Boiler Shop and then with the CSO. He retired from the shipyard in 1996.

Transcript / Summary

(This summary is a work in progress. Timings are approximate.) (00:30) He started working at the dockyard as a labourer. He started working at the boiler shop which at that time was underground, as a labourer with the inspectors and foremen. He does not remember the dockyard after the war, but he was there when the trouble during the 1958, even though at the boiler shop, there they were not aware what was happening, until he saw people coming out from the Senglea gate. (05:15) He remembers when he got married, the inspectors were invited to the wedding. (07:00) He was then offered to be promoted skilled labour to do blasting work for metalizing. It was a difficult and dangerous work. He was then moved to the store. (08:45) He describes the way they used to work in the stores, such as noting issuing of tools and other material. He was stationed in different stores all over the shipyard and even at the Manoel Island. (11:45) He remembers that once they made an audit of the material stored at the factory, where they used to take samples of all the material, send them to the laboratory where the material was type was classified and then they created a colour code to identify the different material. (16:45) As store houseman, he used to keep lists of the stock available, and when at a given minimum quantity, they used to pass the information for re-ordering. He always made sure to be as organised as much as possible, as this reduced his work. (19:00) He

remembers, when the main store went on fire during the break. It was a tragedy for him. He also recalls that this happened just after the Um El Faroud tragedy. (28:45) He again describes the work in the store that he used to do. He always took the initiative to organise the requirements for the store such as racks, etc.