



John Ormiston

I left school at eighteen and joined Albion Motors as an apprentice engineer spending a total seven years with the company. Albion were an excellent company to work for, the apprenticeship scheme was first class, they allowed time off to study during my apprenticeship and leave of absence to attend university where I obtained an honours degree in mechanical engineering.

I spent some time at Leyland Motors and on completion of my apprenticeship I was employed in the Experimental Department. A project I was involved with was the supply of some two hundred Albion Reiver six wheeled bulk grain vehicles for the East German Democratic Republic, which were badged as "Leyland". These vehicles had to be modified to suit EGDR specification covering noise and heat levels within the cab and engine noise and exhaust routing. I was sent to East Germany via Berlin, during the cold war, to hand over the first vehicle in Rostock and then visits throughout the country, another story!

After Albion I became involved with container shipping, with container manufacturers and then one of the two major UK shipping consortia rising to Technical Director of their services company. The job entailed being responsible for all technical matters, specification and purchase of all types of containers, trailers, refrigeration equipment, handling equipment and much more. The operation and maintenance and repair were also covered and as a result the position entailed frequent worldwide travel.

With the demise of UK shipping companies, I ran my own company covering all aspects of container equipment design and operation. A significant part of the business was my involvement as an "expert witness" in arbitration disputes relating to the "world of containers".

Transport has always been in my blood from an early age, travelling from Scotland to Wales in the forties and fifties twice a year, an early memory being the Leyland Clock on Shap and no end of commercial vehicles plying their laborious trade.

John Ormiston. Jan 2019