

## Vindi Boys the Fortunate Few

There was a time, there was a place  
to put a smile on young lad's face.  
When horizons new and sights unseen  
came often where you'd never been.  
On foreign shore strange sounds and sights  
and people different by our lights

Across the globe across the seas  
each adventure sure to please.  
So lucky we on ships of steam  
living out our young man's dream.  
Seeing sights and strange sensations  
savouring this world of nations.

Far from home and all we knew  
but seeing all, we lucky few.  
True some hardships came our way  
and some hard work and little play.  
Some ships happy, some so bad  
and danger sometimes to be had.

But oh the memories, lifetime pays  
for what we couldn't have today.  
And even a lusting millionaire  
could not buy what we all share.  
For the world has changed, those times gone  
when the seas were free to roam upon.

Now once-packed ports deserted be  
no longer gateways to the sea.  
Their lifeblood cargos, people too  
now screaming jet loads in the blue.  
And the once vast fleets of British ships  
long gone, nor any on the slips.

Sharpness now for mooring yachts  
the old ship gone scrapped and lost.  
With just a plaque to show where she  
had trained her thousands for the sea.  
The camp- a bulldozed rubble pile  
sadness to some, while others smile.

Remembering sea pie & rotten fare  
and blessed youth and little care.  
As old seamen walk down memory lane  
who thought they'd come back here again?  
So count our blessings, me and you  
we've had a life enjoyed by few.

Our wandering souls blessed with joy  
and shared by every Vindi boy.  
Yes indeed, the fortunate few  
that's me, shipmate, and you too!

R. F. (Red) Edwards