

AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT – “BREWING STORIES”

INTERVIEW SUMMARY – ROBERT CHARLES MOLE

Interviewee:	Robert Charles Mole (known as Roy)
Year of birth:	1925 in Mortlake (current age 94)
Current Employment:	Retired in 1988
Main Positions:	Brewing Room Boy & Brewer at Watney’s Brewery Mortlake
Interview Location:	Roy’s home in Worthing, West Sussex
Date:	3 rd May 2019
Interviewer:	Ioana Constantinesco

Roy was the youngest of 13 children. His father was a painter and decorator that went on to continue with his profession at the local Watney’s Brewery.

Roy also joined Watney’s straight from school as a “Brewing Room Boy”. This was basically a brewery office apprenticeship where he gained “hands on” training throughout the many and varied administrative departments. His career was initially short lived, as at the age of 18, he was called up to enrol in the navy in order to join the war effort. He trained as an electrical engineer.

After the war, he returned to work in the brewing stores office as a clerk. He attended a brewing course in London and on completion started his long career in brewing.

Roy gives a great insight into both his own career and the general workings and changes within the brewery between 1940 and 1988. At 94 years old, his memories and recollections are amazing.

In addition to his long brewing experience, he tells of his own inventions that he created to improve working practices in both the brewery and the company’s pubs.

To summarise, Roy thoroughly enjoyed his career at Mortlake and looked back fondly on his time there. It was incredible to capture so much interesting and detailed information for this project after all these years.

Summariser: Bob Hall