

Interview with Clifford Hymas ([SA 25/1/3/1](#)), recorded by Maureen Scollan in 1991

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Clifford: [During] the general strike we got sent down to Grays.

Interviewer: How did you get down there?

Clifford: An old Ford canvas-covered lorry. Because there was only one car in the force in those days, and that was a Studebaker, I believe, something like that anyway. Then we were billeted in the hotel. Then we got sent down one night. There was a convoy came down to the docks and they wouldn't go out, and they got specials. And specials to the docker was like a red rag to a bull, because really they're nothing but blacklegs, I always say so too. And so we got sent down to escort them out. When we got there, they wouldn't come out with us. They wanted an armoured lorry. So we had to spend the night, or part of the night, on board a P&O boat on the deck. Then about 2 in the morning we got woke up, 'you're going out'. So we all escorted, got into this lorry, 14 or 15 of us, in this particular lorry. And as we went over the iron bridge, we were pelted with hell and all things. When we got back, the old publican treated us to whisky and all that, and we went to bed. The next day, they came round, the dockers, and apologised. They didn't know it was the police, they thought it was the specials coming out. And they couldn't do enough for us. Then the strike had eased up a bit- because we got used to be sent out to these various places. There used to be two of us to about 80 or 90 strikers. But do you know that when we wasn't there, they'd turn vehicles over and goodness knows why. But when we were there, they wouldn't do anything. And every drop of tea and that they had, they'd come and give us some.

Interviewer: Did they?

Clifford: Treated us like lords.