

ABSTRACT



The main target of the work is to extend our current knowledge concerning history of the Czechoslovak Ocean Shipping company during the period from the company's founding in 1959 until year 1989. The main basis for this task fulfillment there are interviews with former Czechoslovak sailors realized with help of the oral history method. Beside this, the paper is supported also by archive materials. The text reflects certain specificity of the topic (maritime business running in the inland country, in addition country ruled by non-democratic regime) and it aims to the company's history; but its main part is concentrated on the sailors' living conditions. It processes direct testimonies about sailors' life and work on Czechoslovak ships; there are included topics as travelling, emigration, direct experience with communist regime on ships, private life of sailors, and their father and husband role. The author does not propose definite conclusions; her effort is aimed to see the topic from various points of view. Sailors are not portrayed as exceptional people but as men whose meaning of life was work on the sea. And this fact principally influenced their lives as well as lives of their families.