

I'm a multimillionaire

Fiorenzo Miani

I started work 29th October 1956 in the Fabbri Nave shipyard. I was a carpenter and did secondary fixtures that is all the ship's woodwork but excluding the hull.

In the workshops we cut seals engulf in a cloud of asbestos dust. Whilst outside on the decks it was worse, as we found ourselves in sandstorms of the stuff, especially if the Bora(a strong wind) blew. It got everywhere as we had no doors and windows to ventilate our working environment.

I also worked extensively within boiler rooms, where later on I started to install flues. People need to be aware that boiler room walls had a 20cm asbestos membrane. So every time we drilled holes for the pipe struts, clouds of asbestos dust were created.

Occasionally, I got lucky and had “away days” on submarines. But whenever you were working in them with a flame, an asbestos blanket was used, clogging the limited airspace with enormous amounts of fine asbestos dust.

And to think we then took our filthy and contaminated overalls home to be washed....!

It was in the 1980's that the dangers of asbestos started to leak out.

On January 1st 1993 I retired.

In 2002, two tumours were found on my left lung and since then I've lived with them.

In spite of this, I battle on feeling myself a king,fortunate to see the Sun come up every day.

Over recent years, times have been difficult. I've seen ,bit by bit, a lot of people disappear. What hit me most was when the youngsters died. All were thought highly by me not only as people, but work colleagues; they were part of the family of workmates.

I'd like to say that I'm really fortunate because I enjoy seeing my grandchildren growing up, life continuing when mine is not.

I'm a millionaire because I still here, talking to you, enjoying everythingrain, sun, air, every second of life.