

1940 L.I.V.I. (Always with Idress)

1) I was born in the year 1920 as I was told, as there was no birth register then during the time I grew up at Idress Area near the Emir's market Kori.

2) In the year 1934 I entered Okesun Elementary School, which had been the only elementary school in the whole of Kori. It was that year that the second elementary school in Kori town was established at Pakata.

3) In 1938 we took entrance Examination to the Middle School, now G.S.S. Those of us that passed the examination were called for another test at the Middle School. I was one of the successful candidates. I was then admitted into the first class called Remove class.

4) The second year I was in Middle one. ^{3) Since} I was in the Elementary School I used to take 1st position in all the examinations. There was one Abdurrahim Okekeri who also took 1st position in Pakata School in their examinations. We were admitted to the Middle School together. Since the beginning at the Middle School, if I took first position he would take second, or when he took first I would take second.

5) One day, at the Middle one, the European in charge, Kori Province on Education matters came to our class and said that, ~~the~~ Abdurrahim Okekeri and myself were wasting our time in the class and that the two of us should be promoted to

When Mr Steward came out, he
escorted out by the director whom
I would see for the first time. When
the Director saw me he said "Mr
Idiara, you are welcome here". I then
found him to be Mr Paget, whom I
~~among~~ who came to Koro in a lecture
tour under the ^{auspices} of the
British Council, and it was I who
arranged his lecture which took
place at the then African Club in
Koro. He asked what my problem was
and I told him that ~~it was~~ I was
not yet able to get an accommodation.
He then called his secretary and told
her to locate a self contained accomo-
dation for me on that very day.

Other students were surprised
how I was able to get accommodation
there. The hostel was very convenient
and close to a tube station, ~~at~~ right
Bridge.

When I was in London I was able
to go to Paris for a Summer holiday
course for three weeks. It was warm
there. I also visited Cambridge, and
Oxford Universities. I was also able
to visit various Country sides,
officially and privately, such as Cant,
Surrey, etc. At the end of the course
I was one of the successful candidates.

the two with immediate effect. We were
in Middle two. At the end of ~~the~~ our first
month I took first position in the monthly
Examination while Abdusahim Okeke
took the second. From the date of the release
of the Examination ^{Results} the whole class became
unfriendly to the two of us. We
continued like that until 1941 when
the Army took over the Middle school
during the World War 2, Hitler's war
with the rest of the world. ~~We~~ Those
of us in Middle 3 & 4 were moved to Bida
Middle school, while those in Middle 1 & 2
were moved to Omurran Native Authority
School, and the Remove class was moved
to Okesuma School.

Early in 1942 we took entrance
Examination to ~~the~~ Kaduna College,
now called Barewa College, which was
for the whole Northern ^{we were in} Region. Four of us
passed the Examination, ^{late} Emir of
Lafage, ^{called} Umaru Okeode, ² Nagode
Itakure ³ Abdusahim Okeke, who opted for
the law school Kano because he was also
very good in Arabic, and ⁴ myself.

25 of us were then admitted into
the College from all over ^{the} Northern
Region. ^{which now covers} On resumption, we were told that
we were too many, therefore there would
be a weeding Examination by the
end of the first year. At the end of
the year seven ~~of our~~ were weeded out
of our class, remaining only 18 in our
class.

In 1944 we passed out with the Examin-
ation called Middle Six Examination. Before
we finished every one of us was asked
to choose the type of work that we would
like to do. I then chose Administration. 3

I then returned to Nigeria by the same M.V. Aureal - Boat. At Apapa port I was met by many friends. I was warmly received by friends, as any one that came back from England in those days ^{would} ~~was~~ be highly honoured. Many wanted to have photograph with me. I later returned to Ikoru by Train. I was met at the Railway Station by many people.

When I resumed work, I was given an Automatic promotion with seven years increment. I was at the Middle school for a few months before I was asked to go and take charge of a Boarding school a Baboko in Ikoru, which was for students from all over Ikoru Province.

I was at the school, when my first daughter was to start school. It was the year that Baptist school was established, but they could not get child children to recruit to their school, while I was facing the problem of too many children whose parents wish to send ^{them} to my school. Many of such parents would not listen that they ~~should~~ could send their children to the Baptist school near bye.

I therefore sent my daughter Afusatu to the Baptist school instead of my attractive school. I was then able to convince many people to send their children there, since they saw that

Later I was called to the then Secretariat in Kaduna where I was told that I was needed to come to Koro to teach at the then Middle School. I was told to do so for one year, at the end of the year, if I wish to go back to my original choice I would be free to do so, as ^{the work} ~~employment~~ would be ^{reserved} kept for me for that year. But if I would like to continue with the teaching I should continue.

When I started teaching, I was not happy with the then Provincial Education Officer called ^{Mr.} A. L. B. Hay, a European, who was worrying me not to be

^{Putting on} ~~wearing~~ shoes to the classroom. I then told the Headmaster, Alhaji Yahaya, Madawata that I would leave as I did not agree with the white man who wanted me to be going to school bear footed. I told him that even in the

College, Barewa College, where most of our teachers were Europeans, we were allowed to go to the classes with our shoes. The Headmaster then called me down, and told me that as far as he was concerned he did not mind my wearing ^{shoes} shoes to the classrooms.

I then ignored the European Officer. I had ~~was wearing~~ my shoes on one morning, he came to my class and found that I was with my shoes on. I said good morning to him, but he did not answer me. The following day my class was the first for him to visit. I too did not ^{ignore} ~~say~~ say

~~good~~ morning to him. He then went
 Not much longer the office was
 posted to Kano. A few months later
 I was asked to go to Kano for a
 teacher's course under the supervision
 of the same officer under whom I had
 wanted to resign. We were to go from
 Iwri and Kabba Provinces to go for the
 course. The second person was Alhaji
 Obadaki, who was my classmate at
 Barewa College. I told him the story
 of the officer, Mr. A. L. B. Hay, about wearing
 of shoes. He too said that he would
 resist going about without shoes.

On arrival at Kano we went to
 report to the officer, who, to my surprise,
 received me very warmly. He even offered
 on his own to lend me some money, which
 I received. Since then in the whole school
 only the two of us were wearing shoes
 in the class rooms. All other teachers
 would put their shoes off before getting
 into the classrooms.

At the end of the course an Inspector
 came from Kaduna who inspected our work
 and the two of us passed the Examination.
 I was then back to Amin Riddle School.

By the year 1950 I got married to the
 daughter of the kind Headmaster, who
 stopped me from resigning from the
 School.

In 1951 I was called for an interview
 in Kaduna together with other people, we were
 150 all together. After the interview, 10 of us
 from the north were selected to go for another
 interview in Lagos, where we would be
 interviewed along with others from all over Nigeria.

On the day that my first daughter was born, some one brought a news paper to me to see my name on the list of those selected by the federal Govt to go to the University of London on scholarship. Out of the ten of us from the Northern ^{region} that went for the interview only two of us were selected for the scholarship. Myself and one Aliyu Goroso from Kano.

In 1952 we sailed to Liverpool in M.V. Aurial, ~~the~~ the most modern ship at that time. The journey was pleasant. It took us two weeks to get to Liverpool. Our first stop was Takoradi where we spent 10 hours. We took that opportunity to go to ~~the~~ Secundi by taxi on site seeing. Our next stop ^{canary} was Las Palmas, a beautiful island. By the end of the second week we arrived at Liverpool. We were met in the Boat by the Student Officers of the Colonial Office, who was in charge of Nigerian students, by name Dr Biobaku, now Professor Biobaku, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos.

From Liverpool we were put on the train which took us to London. From the Railway station we were taken to Sloons garden, a temporary accommodation, from where every body ~~will~~ would look for his own accomodation.

When I was in Nigeria, I heard so much about a student Hostel called Hans Crescent - in Knights Bridge, in London. We all rushed there for accommodation, but ^{we} were only recorded for waiting list, as accommodation there was scarce. We kept going there, but each time we would be told that we could not see the Director who was in charge of the Hostel. It was a British Council Hostel.

One day when I was there, I saw ~~an~~ Mr Steward, who was the British Council for Nigeria. I knew him and he knew me very well, because I was the Secretary for the British Council in Nigeria. I used to arrange lectures for the British Council sponsored lecturers coming to Nigeria, and I used to keep their travelling library in Nigeria, when I was at the same time the Secretary for the Extra Mural Studies of the University of Ibadan. He, Mr Steward asked me when I arrived in London, and what I was looking for. I told him that it was the problem of accommodation that brought me there. He then asked me to wait for him. He then went in, after the secretary had got him cleared to see the Director, who was difficult to see.

my own child was there. That was how the Baptist School was able to take off. Though I later pulled out my daughter from the school for a boarding one at Oba.

Some time after my ^{successful} staff at Baboko School, it was directed from Kaduna that I should be posted to the Boarding School that was catering for the Duke of Ilorin North, at Malete. When I was there, many people removed their children from schools in Ilorin and brought them to Malete. The school at Malete was to be closed down because it was badly run. The standard was poor, the health of the students was poor, ^{almost} every one had croons. By the end of that year we had ~~cost~~ success in the school leaving Examination, many of my students then have ^{now} become important people. One of them was an S.M.C, one is now a judge of Sharia Court of Appeal. ~~to~~

When I left Malete, I was asked to return to Baboko since I had put Malete school into a proper order. The students that had run away from the school returned on their own saying that the good news of the school reached them and that was the reason why they wanted to be back there.

In 1959, I was asked to go to Bauchi for an ~~course~~ Inspectorate course. When I got to Jos, where I stayed the night with an

European friend, Mr Gaskell, by ~~way~~ ^{his} who arranged a dinner party for ^{me} among the invitees at the dinner was an Inspector ~~from~~ of Education from Kaduna, call Mr Spiser, who was then telling me that with my grade, I would be used to teaching the students of the Teachers Training College in Bauchi.

After spending six months in Bauchi I was coming home on holidays when I called at Kaduna. In Kaduna I was told that I was posted to Kafirama. I then said I should be allowed to have my holiday first. As soon as I got to Ilo I was told that it was a pity that I would not be able to get a holiday, because the then Education Officer who was in charge of Education Administration, my father in law, Alhaji Yahaya Madawaki of Ilo, would be going on leave and that I should take over from him immediately. I therefore had no leave. I took up the job without handing over or taking over since the former Officer was travelling out of the town.

I therefore started by creating and getting experience from left and right. My first problem in the office was that many people were queuing in for help as to get their children into a ^{primary} and secondary schools.

I then decided to get more primary schools established. The following were then established: 1. An abandoned weaving centre at Pakata was turned into a school. (2) I got hold of an Alhaji at Adeta to release a piece of land at Adeta for the establishment of Adeta school. (3) I got hold of a Magaji at Kamma who surrendered a piece of land for the establishment of Kamma school. (4) Alose school was also established (5) Pake school was opened (6) Okelele school was also established. This exercise went on in the town and in the villages.

In one village called Babalake in Ipage District I decided to establish a school there, because in many districts, from Northern districts in particular, ~~both~~ the parents ~~of the children~~ did not want to send their children to school and the children always ran away from schools. When I went to the village I found that there was no water for people to drink. I then called the people that they should support a school by sending their children there and that I would sink a modern well for the school and that the whole village could use the well to make them know the value of a school.

Some of the schools in such areas were made boarding, and houses were built for the teachers there.

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One major problem was for the children of Iloilo town ~~to~~ and Iloilo North to get admission into Secondary Schools. I then decided to get a Post Primary school established where the children will spend two years after Primary Education. I did this because during the Common Entrance Examinations children from Iloilo North town, Iloilo North, Boracay & Lafuigi/Pafugi usually trail behind those that came from other areas, especially from Mission Schools. But with the Post Primary Education the children from there always passed very well and as a result of this many of them got places in the Secondary Schools. With the achievement of the success of the children of Iloilo town in particular, some enemies of Iloilo lobbied and got the Post Primary school closed down because it was serious a section of the Community.

Once again I became a beggar for the children of Iloilo origin of the various Community Secondary Schools, such as Ofa Grammar school, Oro Grammar school, Esie Kuduan Grammar school, Isabela Iloilo Grammar school and many others. Through my position I was able to get many of the children, ^{of Iloilo origin} into various such institutions.

The problem that I had was that those institutions had their own children to cater for. However, they were accepting as many of their children as they could admit. Yet, many children were left without places to go to.

I then initiated another idea of having a secondary school for their town. It was not the way to do it was not strange to me since I was the one that processed the establishment of many other secondary schools, such as those of Oso, Esie Iludun, Omupo ^{those of} ~~that~~ ^{many of the} and many others. ~~for~~ I then summoned a meeting of a few people of their origin and explained to them the problems being encountered by their people in getting their children to post primary schools, and that the solution is to establish a secondary school of our own for their town.

After the meeting, I went to brief the then Emir of their town, Alh. Sulh Gambani and requested for his support. He then gave me ^{his full support} ~~the necessary~~ funds which were completed by me. I went to Kaduna several times and to Lagos once for various briefings. I then got the proposed school registered with the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs with 3 Sponsors who were: 1. The Emir of their town, 2. Alhaji ... and 3. Alhaji Yusuf ...

I then organized a fund raising activity with the Emir of Ilo-Ilo presiding at the ^{Palace} ~~Cinema~~ house Ilo-Ilo. I also sent letters of appeal to various individuals at home and outside. With the money realised we started building the Administrative block and some classrooms. I had previously got the plans approved in Kaduna for the school. After necessary things had been provided for the school, the application for its establishment was approved. Among the things that we had to provide was water. We then ~~by~~ sunk a well. I also moved a water tank ^{from the} ~~to the school~~ old weaving centre at Pakata which I had changed into a primary school. It was serving the school for the kitchen and dormitory use.

Through my appeal to known individuals, water was supplied to the school, which was paid for by Alh. Saadu Alanamu, who was then in Lagos. Also Dr. Ousida Saraki also paid ~~the~~ six thousand pounds to NEPA then called ECN to supply light to the school from the town. While some other individuals donated cash to the school.

We then advertised the post of the Principal which was well responded to. We then conducted an

interview, and the first Principal was appointed. An entrance examination was conducted and many Ho's children were admitted into the school. I then became relieved, as I was no more a beggar for Ho's children that I had been fighting for, for some years and which was not realised by the people of Ho's.

What Ho's people wanted was, whatever they wanted must be achieved, if not you the prep helper, did not want to help as you are black mailed for it.

Coming to the land on which Ho's Grammar school was established, I went from house to house to meet the owners of various parts of the land. I gave some of them some money from my ^{salary, savings, and my personal borrowing} own pocket so as to leave part of their either family or individual land to the school.

In due course, one particular family put the school to court for the use of their land. On this, I attended Magistrate Court twice, Upper Area Court twice, High Court three times, but I won the case for the school in all the cases and in all the Courts. This was so because I acquired

in land in a clean way. Before the C of O was granted to the school. The Iloilo Provincial District Office, called ^{Mr} Stafford called a meeting at Iloilo Secretariate, of all the people from whom I got the land for the school, and some officials of the then Native Authority and the Emir's representative. At the meeting, the P.D.O. asked all the land owners to confirm if they actually surrendered their land to me for the proposed Iloilo Grammar School, which they all confirmed. The C of O was later approved for the land for the school after the recommendation of the P.D.O. to Kaduna.

Social activities: It was before I left Kaduna College, now called ~~Barnabas~~ College, in the year 1944 I was called by the then Principal of the college, called ^{Mr} E. L. Hart, that since I was going to work in Iloilo, they would like to have a Scout Troop to be established in Iloilo. Mr Hart was the Scout Commissioner for the Northern Region. At the College I was one of the Patrol Leaders for the Scouts. I then started the Scout Troop at the St Barnabas school Iloilo. Before I came back to Iloilo, there was one UAC worker called Mr Durcaso

who had interest in Scouting. ^{Int.}
 the intention to start Scouting, ^{ves.}
 could not start anything when he
 transferred to Ibadan from Koro. He
 became my friend on account of this.
 We later met in London, when he was
 studying law, and when I too was a
 student at the University of London.
 He is now a Chief in Ibadan and he has
 been holding important positions in
 Ibadan and Lagos.

Scouting had since become
 well known in Koro, and I went for
 various Scout Causes, in Nigeria,
 Ghana and ~~Britain~~ England.

When I was the Scoutmaster
 when I was ^{then} a teacher at the
 Middle School, one European, ^{Mr} called
 O. Neil who was brought to Koro
 to start a Teacher Training College,
 now the ITC., called me and told
 me that the Regional Conf. at Kaduna
 wanted us to start a Red Cross
 Society. He and I then started one
 which has since been existing up
 till now. Many people, men and women
 have since been trained in First Aid,
 which was the main purpose of starting the society.

Shortly after this British
 Council Group was inaugurated in Koro.
 I was recommended to the British Council
 Representatives that came from Ibadan and

in. and the then Resident that I was to be
 was secretary for the British Council for
 in Province. I was to organise lectures
 and visits for British people that came
 to Nigeria either on a lecture tour
 or on visits. I was also to keep
 a Travelling Library.

During this time, Extra Rural
 Study was also organised by the
 University of Ibadan through the
 British Council. I was also
 asked to be the Secretary for the
 Extra Rural studies. I was the one
 Organising the lectures conducted by
 the staff of the University. It was
 started by one Dr Gardiner, ^{later}
 a Professor at a University in Australia.
 I recruited students for the Extra Rural
 Studies course. One of the students
 was the former Deputy Governor, ^{of Kwara State} for
 Oyejipo and many others.

We had a Union called the
 Progressive Element comprised of
 people like late AA. Jima, Late Abalwahin
 Okekere, Alh. Saidu Kawa, Alhaji Baker,
 Late Sidiku Gegele, and many others.
 We used to meet in my house, and
 I was the President of the Union.

We used to organise various activities.
 Alh. Saidu Kawa was the Activity Organiser of
 the Union.

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was Nigerian Government that
arrangement. It was there that we,
successful candidates met ourself
Afternoon tea was made for us and we
taught how to take tea, how to sip
and not to drink it like water etc
A dinner was also prepared and we were
taught how to handle fork and knife.
How to say yes please, or no thank you.
When you are offered more food or drink
I, as a person had many European
friends in Ibo then. Most of them invited
me to dinner or tea in their houses.
Then the ^{One} particular one, who was
the ^{District} ^{Office} Incharge, Ibo Province
invited me and my wife and my little
daughter - Late Afusa, to come for a
week end in his GRA house, from
Friday afternoon, so as to teach us
how to sleep and how to do many
other things.

On our way to England, we
travelled by Boat, called N.V. Oriak,
the only system of travelling to UK
in those days was by Boat. It was
during the voyage that we put our
previous learnings into practice, such
as feeding, sleeping, shopping, talking
to people and making friends.
Some of my mates then are still
very good friends to me.

It was Nigerian Government that made the arrangement. It was there that we, the successful candidates met ourselves. Afternoon tea was made for us and we were taught how to make tea, how to sip it and not to drink it like water e.t.c. A dinner was also prepared and we were taught how to handle fork and knife. How to say yes please, or no thank you when you are offered more food or drink.

I, as a person had ~~many~~ many European friends in Ilorin then, most of them invited me to dinner or tea in their houses.

One particular one, who was then the District Officer Incharge Ilorin Province invited me and my wife and my little daughter - late Afusa, to come for a weekend in his GRA house from Friday afternoon, so as to teach us how to sleep and how to do many other things.

On our way to England, we travelled by Boat, called M.V. Oriol, the only system of travelling to United Kingdom in those days was by Boat. It was during the voyage that we put our previous learning into practice, such as feeding, sleeping, shopping, talking to people and making friends, some of my mates then are still very good friends to me.

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