



**Willie Hunter's 'Smithy' on Commercial Road** – had a certain character with its stable doors and formidable wrought iron railings. Nonetheless it was latterly a fairly untidy looking building between 'Mac and Macs' (McLeod and Mclean) – note British Leyland sign – (now Da Wheel Bar) and Cee & Jays. It was demolished to make room for the block of flats adjacent to Mill Lane. The block-built building with large windows on the side of the Smithy used to be a barber's shop. The difference in picture quality can be clearly discerned with the top picture having been taken on a 'disc' camera and the modern version with a digital camera.





These two snaps (above – joined) were taken in the same locality as the ‘Old Smithy’ during roughly the same time period. There are still a number of klondykers in the harbour and to the far left of the picture one can see that the *Brenda* is still in the service of the Malakoff as a workboat. If the same picture was taken today from the ridge of the North Ness House, the main difference would be the addition of the Malakoff’s slipway cover. The Alexandria Buildings have still not received their facelift



and neither has the fishmarket. To the far right of the picture it is possible to make out the foundations of the New Viking Café (the Great Wall as it is now) going in, while a Malakoff forklift moves (presumably pallets of paint) from a lorry into the Malakoff Shop store in the foreground. A further view of the fishmarket prior to the slipway cover was taken from a boat on the slipway. Again we see the market facilities before upgrading with one of the old Bressay ferries passing behind (probably the *Grima*). The tallship lying at Victoria Pier is almost certainly either the Statsraad Lehmkuhl or the Christian Radich,

as it is flying what appears to be the Naval Ensign of Norway. The picture on the right was taken after the fishmarket building was extended but again, before the Alexandria Buildings were renovated. This area of the pier is bustling with activity. Malakoff paraphernalia litters the foreground, fishboxes being sorted out on the left, beyond that – wire store operations. The entire scene is rendered even more intriguing through its being watched over by the Ward of Bressay, protruding eerily out of a blanket of sea fog.

