

# ***BLACKBURN, Jo – Further Research***

The following have been extracted from several passenger lists, available through Ancestry.com and Findmypast.co.uk.

## **OUTGOING PASSENGER LISTS**

**1919 May 28th** Ship: “Abinsi” (Liverpool-African Steamship Company) from Liverpool to the Port of Iddo.  
Name of Passenger: Mr J. Blackburn. Age 41, contracted to land at Iddo.  
Country of Intended Future Permanent Address: - West Africa

[**Note** - Iddo Island was an island opposite Lagos Island in Nigeria, but due to the passage of time and infill (whether natural or man-made) it is now part of the mainland. Iddo Island is, now, connected to Lagos Island by the Eko Bridge and the Carter Bridge.]

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## **INCOMING PASSENGER LISTS**

**1920 December 22nd** Ship: “Laria” (*British and African Steam Navigation Company*) from Lagos, Nigeria, on the West Coast of Africa to Liverpool.

*Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger:* Mining Engineer  
*Name of Passenger:* J. Blackburn.  
*Age:* 42.  
*Proposed Address in UK:* “Kia Ora”, Icklesham, Sussex  
*Country of Last Permanent Residence:* Nigeria  
*Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence:* British Possessions

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**1922 November 3rd** Ship: S. S. “Abinsi” (*African Steamship Co.*) from West Coast of Africa to Plymouth.

*Port of Embarkation* Accra  
*Port at which Passengers have been landed:* Plymouth.  
*Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger:* Accountant  
*Name of passenger:* Blackburn, Jo  
*Age:* 44  
*Proposed Address in UK:* “Kia Ora”, Icklesham, Sussex  
*Country of Last Permanent Residence:* Gold Coast  
*Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence:* British Possessions

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**1924 February 17th** Ship: T.M.S. “ABA” (*British and African Steam Navigation Co Ltd*) from West Coast of Africa to Liverpool

*Port of Embarkation:* Accra  
*Port at which Passengers have been Landed:* Plymouth.  
*Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger:* Merchant  
*Name of passenger:* Blackburn, Jo  
*Age:* 45  
*Proposed Address in UK:* “Kia Ora”, Icklesham, Sussex.  
*Country of Last Permanent Residence:* West Africa  
*Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence:* Foreign Countries

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## **Notes:**

- 1 It's not known, at this stage, how often Jo travelled to West Africa, as research is, obviously, dependent upon the availability of any source material; more may become available as time goes on.

- 2 There is no mention, on any of the passenger lists, of his wife. This raises many questions – was it she, Elsie Violet née Sewell, who lived at “Kia Ora”, Icklesham, Sussex and did he come home just occasionally, perhaps, for business reasons? Did she not want to live in Africa? The name, “Kia Ora” sounds more residential than commercial and not like a business address, at all but it’s difficult to imagine how the marriage survived such a relationship (assuming it did). On the other hand, perhaps, Elsie did live in Nigeria and Jo came back to the UK for business reasons. While this is a possibility, Elsie died in 1969, in Sussex, the district of Uckfield, which doesn’t include Icklesham, and is not in Africa – and no death record has been found for Jo, so, perhaps, he did live and die there.
- 3 In all cases Jo Blackburn travelled first class, which indicates that he had money or the business paid for his journeys.
- 4 Just as a matter of interest, “Kia ora” is a Māori (New Zealand) greeting which translated into English means, basically, "be well/healthy" but is used as “Good Morning”, “Good Day” or just Hi”.

It would be interesting to discover, perhaps, in a local directory of the time a house named “Kia Ora” and who lived there.