

Instructions had been left with the bank so I was able to draw my hard earned pay. It only amounted to £50 plus or minus. So that ends that campaign as far as I was concerned. The fighting however went on till the end of the war as von Lettow, a fine soldier, was able to move from place to place and was never cornered. General van Deventer was the supreme commander at the end.

I arrived at Serowe and Home having been met at Palapye Road station by my Mother and Dad and the old Cape Cart and six mules and Jusia the driver who had been with us for years. I enjoyed the 36 mile drive helping Jusia with the reins while he handled the whip. It is a strange thing that mules pulling a cart seem to travel much better on the homeward journey than they do on the outward. I suppose they then know how far they have to run but on the outward they have no idea. This road from the station to Serowe is very twisty dodging trees but at the same time the twisty road waggons using the road and cutting deeper into the sandy soil. Waggons with spans sixteen oxen cannot take all the sharp bends and so have to stick to their old road.

I wired the Union-Castle to say I had returned from the war and was in Serowe on a months Military leave. And how I needed it, too. The next week, having contacted some of my pals as to their plans, I wired asking for permission to proceed Overseas to England to join some Unit over there for further war service.

I received a wire the next morning sanctioning my going and offering me a passage on one of their ships at half fare. Well as I had only been with them a short while I thought it a very generous offer which I accepted. As I did not want to waste time I decided to travel after two weeks and spend the rest of my leave on board. I wired accordingly and they booked my passage in Intermediate ship "Gaika". And advised my pals and they booked in the same ship.

During the fortnight or so I was at home I had quite a good bit of sport in the way of shooting, golf and tennis. Every one of the few traders in Serowe offered to take me out as their contribution to the war effort. When I left I thought 'well there are four young chaps with plenty of money of whom at least two could have joined up. One of them a wealthy trader said to me as I left 'Give my love to the Empire'. It was not the British Empire he was referring to but the theatre, to which he had once been. Well I set off and having had a good send off by the local inhabitants I decided to spend a day or so in Mafeking to see my brother Gerald, sister Bimbi and a couple of old flames. Here an outing was arranged for the day and we motored out to the Wandergat where we spent an enjoyable time. The Wandergat, about ten miles from Mafeking, is probably an old large crater about two to three acres in extent full of water which I believe is 5000 feet deep. There are fish in it and I think must be part of an underground river which comes from the Zeerust area to Malmani, Rooigrond and eventually to Kuruman where the water has been flowing out into the desert for years. That evening, having dinner at Dixons Hotel - Baden Powell's headquarters during the siege, I met Rosenberg manager of the Mafeking firm of Kemp and Co and he told me that if ever I was short of cash in London I was to call on Sammy Kemp in London. I was glad of this of this as I shall mention later. Perhaps better now.

After being commissioned in the R.F.C. I ran short of money while spending a week end in London. I thought of Rosenbergs offer and called on Sammy Kemp who advanced me £10 which I repaid on the Monday after seeing Fred Dyer to whom my Dad had sent money.

While sitting back just now, with a cup of tea before continuing my story it struck me that having lived a life so full as mine so far on of the joys is having been privileged to meet so many people: many loved - very few disliked - but the majority with qualities that commanded respect and I hoped that they thought the same of me. Well what matter if they don't.

Arriving in East London I was told the Gaika would be leaving in two days time and that I had been booked a first class passage
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