

Before leaving, however, I spent most of the time looking at that mass of water from various points of vantage. The sight of this great volume of water falling over a mile wide, tumbling into that deep abyss must be seen to be really appreciated. The flood waters come from away into the Portuguese West African country and had not as yet arrived at the Falls so that we were able to get a good view. When there is too much water very little can be seen as the mist is very thick, that is the spray.

Next morning my Mother and I set off by train for Bulawayo where we transferred to the through train to the Cape and Johannesburg. The Railway authorities had everything well organised for on the train we found bedding had been put down as it was also from Bulawayo.

On arrival at Palapye Road my sister and her husband Kissie were there to meet her and motor to Serowe where she was to stay for some time.

My mother and father had retired to Kelskama Hoek where my poor old Dad died of Cancer of the tongue. He had been to Cape Town where they cut most of his tongue away and so the poor old chap was not able to talk. Today they would of course have used Cobalt treatment etc - medicine has certainly advanced. Well Dad passed away in 1923 and then my mother took it in turns in living with the children.

Well now, Mother was to live for a while with Madge and to make her comfortable and independent they had built a very nice cottage attached to their house. Here Mother could carry on as though she were in her own home. She was very happy there.

I eventually arrived back in East London and, having let my house, went to live in a small cottage in the grounds of the Kent Nursing Home in Inverleith Terrace. This Home was sold and the buildings demolished and on that ground now stands the large block of flats - Elizabeth Flats. I furnished the cottage with a few bits from my house and had meals at the Nursing Home.

Later, I sold the house as already mentioned and was able to buy myself a nice Red Chev. for £300 less 5% - what a price they are today! Having the car, I was to get about without having to rely on others for transport. I was able to attend Golf, Cricket, Social Evenings, dances - though I was not keen on dancing as some people seem to be - and picnics. I had been Captain of the Cambridge Golf Club but now joined the West Bank of which I eventually became Captain 1932 to 1934. I had also, as they were very short of officers, been persuaded by their Commanding Officer Col. Robertson, to join the Kaffrarian Rifles as Adjutant and did eventually command the Battalion in the North African Campaign where I was taken prisoner. Of that later.

As the regiments then had no permanent staff we had to employ one of our Sergeants to assist me in the Orderly room at night - times to draw up orders etc. For this we had to pay him £8 per month and the messenger £6 so there was not much left out of the monthly £20 we received. My services were of course free but it gave me something to occupy some of my evenings.

I attended courses at Roberts Heights as it then was at the Military College, a very fine institution. Here, besides learning the book work in connection with a regiment, we attended field manoeuvre schemes with a skeleton army. I thoroughly enjoyed these short breaks and passed out as a Lieutenant Captain and as a Major.

Everything was so well done and the field exercises were a treat. I had now been promoted to Assistant Accountant and later Accountant. On my return from Active service in 1945 I was appointed Assistant Manager of the Union-Castle East London office where with the Marine, Stevedores and office we had a staff of 65. A very nice lot of men. It was not until 1946 that we engaged first one and then three more typists.

I was now beginning to attend many functions as an officer of the Kaffrarian Rifles where I met many very good friends including young ladies. I was invited to many private houses, dances and various outings. I was never keen on dancing but did attend quite a few as many of my friends belonged to some dance club - 12 o'clock etc.