

We had decided to take a sea voyage honeymoon to Beira in the Guildford Castle, for as a member of the staff I was entitled to a free passage. This was a big saving - a first class passage which was to take close on three weeks.

As The Guildford Castle was a couple of days late we decided to spend the few days at Kidds Beach.

After a very happy and wonderful reception, Lorna and I carried out the old custom of throwing her garter - do they have garters today? This was retrieved by one of the young officers and duly joined others on one of the horns of the Buffalo Head in the Officer's Ante room. There are quite a number of garters on the horn, all sizes and colours.

A week or so before the wedding I sold my Chev as we did not need two cars and as a matter of fact we could not afford to run two. I got £95 cash which was not bad.

I must say we received a wonderful lot of presents including a very nice cheque from Mom.

I was at the time not earning a wonderful salary and we realised that we had to live according to our means. Lorna had been teaching but for a time stopped. Later however, as there was a shortage of teachers she took on again and this was a great help. Apart from what we bought we received quite a lot from Mom in the way of an occasional gift and also household necessities.

Well, we motored out to Kidds Beach where we spent a most enjoyable two days. Kidds Beach at that time was not the township it is today. There were just a few seaside cottages and the rest was just thick shrub.

Kidds Beach is the seaside resort for KingWilliamsTown, there being a nice tarred road today.

We eventually boarded the Guildford Castle and started on our trip to Beira. The Guildford was rather a nice old ship but the cabins were not the present day first class with beds - in our two berth cabin we had an upper and lower bunk. As we were both very good sailors we were not to be worried with sea-sickness.

On board I met an old friend Dr Mc Rae who was at one time, until his retirement, the only doctor in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. He decided that he was too young to stagnate and so applied for a Ships Doctor billet and was appointed to the Guildford Castle. It was lovely talking of our old days for he knew me as a lad in the Protectorate. We became very friendly with the fourth officer Mac as he was known, Mackenzie, who later became a Mail Ship Captain and with whom we were always very friendly. When his ship was in port in East London he always spent the day with us or we went aboard his ship for lunch. I remember on one occasion when he was in Port as Captain of a smaller vessel, the Rochester Castle, he was very anxious to call on an overseas friend of his who was the missionary at St. Matthews near Kelskama Hoek and as he was to be in port overnight I drove him up. The local manager was not too pleased at Mac leaving his ship for the night. However that soon blew over and no report to headquarters was made.

It was a delightful trip. No worries over the meals for the next three weeks.

Our first stop was Durban where we went ashore for the day. The next day we left for Lourenco Marques where we were to spend two days. Here like Beira, the pilot is picked miles out from the Port and takes about an hour to reach the harbour.

During the day we bathed in the very warm water. There were small kind of tent cubicles to be hired. I remember after bathing I went into the tent to dress but was wet through in no time, the weather was very warm. I noticed that there were quite a number of natives bathing too. Apparently although there is multiracialism the two colours do not like mixing - each colour group keeps to themselves.