

The first night we went along to the Casino, being taken by my friend Charley Saunders who was then living apart from his old wife of whom I have written. Well, at the casino we changed a pound for thirty chips which were equivalent to a shilling each. Then we went along to the roulette table. As I am no gambler Lorna did the betting. She was very fortunate and in the end won £5. I remember on one occasion she placed a chip on the line between Zero and No. 1. Zero turned up and paid out I think twenty chips which she gathered. The next to turn up was another Zero and the Grouper pushed over twenty to Lorna. What had happened was that when collecting her first winning, in the excitement she did not collect her bet and had left it on the line Zero. The result was that she picked up another winning as Zero had turned up again. Charley Saunders sat at the table with us gambling but he was placing not little shilling discs as Lorna was but golden sovereigns. He was a born gambler and when we left he was still trying to win but in the end he told us he lost all he had on him - £20. We did not make a late evening of it and, after watching some of the other forms of gambling, returned to the ship.

The following day we left for Beira arriving off the Port fairly early the following morning. Here we took on the pilot and then the ship, as I have mentioned earlier, was piloted along the narrow channel until we arrived in Beira. This time we were berthed at one of the quays which had been built since my visit in 1923. Here I met some of my old friends including members of the staff. While I went for a game of golf Lorna remained on the ship and talked to some of the passengers. We were invited to the bachelor's mess for sundowners.

There was quite a lot of cargo to land, copper, tobacco, sugar etc. On leaving Beira the ship sailed fairly close to the shore and we were able to see natives on the beaches and their livestock in the bush.

Mac said he was not too happy about sailing so close in but that Captain Stanley liked to keep close to get the benefit of the Mozambique current which flows down the coast at sometimes four knots an hour. This poor old ship was to come to grief while sailing down the River Elbe from Hamburg.

Years later I realised that Mac was a very careful ship's master and, though a bit nervous at times, took no chances. I did no trips on any of the ships of which he was in command.

On the trip down east we by passed Lourenco Marques and after taking on cargo in Durban we arrived back in East London.

After a most wonderful holiday we were back in East London but had to now gather bits of furniture and house-hunt.

For a while we stayed with Lorna's Mom and later moved into a small house we rented in Clifford Street next to the old Kent Nursing home. The whole of that area has now been converted into a large block of flats.

We eventually moved into the house at a rental of £6 a month, today it would probably be about £50.

We engaged a young girl to help with the house work and then started cooking. That was quite fun and Lorna had to help with the cooking. I well remember our first breakfast. Whether Lorna did not stir the porridge long enough I don't know but we had a fine lot of dumplings. I was now playing golf on the West Bank course, of which I was captain for two years 1933/4, and the committee presented me with a new leather golf bag which I had for years, as a matter of fact, until I gave up golf in 1954 after a big operation.

I was friendly with the golf Club Secretary and caretaker and his wife who provided the teas, Mr and Mrs Fraser. Their daughter became friendly with Lorna and she used to come to our house on some afternoons. It was here that Harry Perks used to call for her later and eventually they married. It is Mrs Fraser that Lorna is very fond of and at 90 she is still very active and helps Nan's daughter, April, with whom she is living - with the mending etc of her three children.