

We eventually arrived back at Tilbury where we disembarked and found our way back to the Regent Palace where room had been reserved for us. A matter of interest I might mention, is in connection with our Kaff. Rifles Band. When going to camp at Potchefstroom in 1930, the O.C., Colonel Robertson and I interviewed, on the platform in Bloemfontein as had been arranged, a Mr Kealey, an Imperial Regimental Bandmaster who had been pensioned and a Nellor Hall man. We had a long chat and as he seemed a very suitable man we engaged him as Bandmaster of the Regimental Band. Now all our music etc. we bought from a firm of Boosey and Hawkes - Oxford Street London, and I several times called on Mr. Boosey. On one occasion I had had a letter from Kealey to say he was leaving our band and had been engaged by the Defence Department as bandmaster for the Permanent Force Band being formed and instruments would be required for this and other Regimental bands including the Kaffrarian Rifles. I mentioned this to Mr. Boosey and he said 'Come to my Club for lunch and we can have a talk about conditions of bands etc. A week or so later I met him again and he told me he had tendered for the instruments. Before we left for home he rang me up full of glee - he had received from the Defence Department an order for ten sets of instruments at £1000 each. 'Come and have dinner and a show'.

We got one of the sets but had to hand in the old instruments no matter how old and useless. No one seemed to know what Regimental instruments we had as most of the men had their own. However, we raked about and made up the set. In some cases one instrument was to take the place of two. Who could check?

Well after a most enjoyable holiday we had to pack and return home. Lorna is a terror when it comes to packing. We were up till after midnight; everything had to be folded, paper put in the fold to stop creasing, although I told her that all would be again unpacked as soon as we got aboard later in the day. Well we were one suitcase short so I was asked to go to the cheapest store, Marks & Spencer. Well, I was only away a very short time but when I returned with the article she said she was sure I had not been to Oxford Street. No, I went to a Marks and Spencer much closer, as there are any number of their stores in the city.

Eventually I convinced her that it was the article she wanted and the branch from which I bought it did not matter.

To save carrying money about with us we used a Lloyds bank in Regent Street close by.

We eventually arrived aboard the Armadale Castle of which the Captain was Morgan, who I had first met in Belra when he was skipper of the Union Castle Coaster 'Ipu'.

There were very few passengers travelling as it was the off season but in spite of that we had a very pleasant voyage and eventually arrived in East London 'broke' but looking forward to the next trip which was to be in 1939.

As Jock Barber to whom we had let the house was there until the end of the month, we lived in the meantime with Lorna's mother.

We later decided to give up the house in Clifford Street and moved into a flat 'Castle Mansions' a block of four, one of which was occupied by friends of ours, the Allister Kings. She was to later accompany us on our next trip overseas.

Well it was a bit of a job settling down to work again after that holiday.

By this time the Mail-ships were entering the Buffalo Harbour and so there was no more travelling out to the roadstead by tug.

I was playing a lot of golf at the time on the West Bank course of which I was Captain from 1931 to 1934. When I originally joined this club it was just a very rough nine hole course with gravel 'greens' and for a clubhouse we used a room in the house of one of our Customs members. It was indeed very rough and we eventually decided to build an eighteen hole course with grass greens. It was going to be a big job. From the council we received about ten acres of ground on which the present course is built.