

The A.A. man left us after a short while and then I took over and carried on. Carrying on we passed through Harrow - famous for its Harrow on the Hill School, then on to Aylsbury - most likely it is after this town that a certain breed of ducks is named - next Helmdon and on to the other famous School Town, Rugby. These two have always been rivals in many ways, including Sport. I am not sure whether the game rugby is named after the town. But in life if you have been educated at either of these two schools you are the salt of the earth. It was wonderful driving oneself through this beautiful countryside passing through the various villages but we had to move to get to Liverpool. Next we passed through Atherston, Stoke-on-Trent and so on to Liverpool. Having Aunt Rosas address, on arrival in Liverpool we asked the best way of getting there and then found that it would not be necessary to use the Mersey Tunnel for which I was quite thankful. We had no difficulty in finding the house where we were met by Joyce and her Aunt. Here we had an early tea in the garden, which we all enjoyed in one of those beautiful English Gardens.

My next visit to Liverpool was in 1945 when I embarked in the Andes after the war, having been released as a P.O.W. on my way home.

Well having put Joyces baggage aboard we made a start and as it was getting dusk and I was not keen on driving at night we decided to stop at the first place where we could get accommodation for the night. Shortly after leaving we stopped at Holmschapel where we got accommodation at a small hotel. Unfortunately Joyce and Mother had to share a room and what with her snoring and the grating noise of the big lorries having to change gear on the steep incline passing the hotel, Joyce said she got very little sleep. Lorna and I too were disturbed but Mother was not disturbed by the noise as she is slightly deaf and said she had had a very good night after a long tiring drive. I always think passengers feel the trip far more than the driver, but they have one advantage and that is being able to have a good look around and enjoy the scenery. The driver must keep his eye on the job. I must say along the road we struck the most courteous drivers who would always signal for you to slow down as there was oncoming traffic and then when the road was clear call you on. But I believe if you hoot at them you will be kept back for a long time. Only fair as these chaps have great big vehicles to handle - and some of them are like small houses on wheels - and have to travel at fairly slow speeds on some gradients. Yes, hoot and a lot later when you do pass him he will say 'That'll learn you to hoot at me'.

On the second day I was beginning to get the feel of the car and the roads and able to enjoy the trip more. We were not tied down to any schedule - except the first day to get to Liverpool - and so could stop where and when we fancied.

Our idea was to have breakfast and dinner at our night stop hotel but for lunch just stop and have whatever had been bought. Lorna was our Finance, Minister, she and Joyce would go to a shop before starting on the days trip and buy some suitable food, fruit and a thermos of tea. Off we would start and then Lorna would say Joyce 'You owe me 1/- or 1/2 and Mother the same. The thermos having been filled at the hotel before leaving. What a cheap lunch. About midday we looked out for some nice quiet spot. It was amusing to listen to the dally settling. Mind you in those days food was cheap and so was accommodation as we shall relate later in telling of the various night stops.

For the night, if not near a town, we usually found accommodation at some nice farm house or similar accommodation advertised on a board outside - 7/6 bed and breakfast and one could always obtain extra meals if you decided to stay on. What surprised me was that although the house appeared small there was always plenty of accommodation and so Mother and Joyce always had separate rooms. It was a wonderful and pleasant way of getting round the country - no worry of phoning ahead or wiring for accommodation as there seemed to be any amount of bed and breakfast houses.