

Many of them were either Titled or connected with the aristocracy. One of them after dinner one evening suggested that they turn up Whose Who and see what it had to say about some friend of theirs. 'And Bill I wonder what it will have to say about you when you get command of the Regiment?'. They certainly full of fun and jokes but none of them ~~indecent~~, indecent. Yet in spite of all this there was no snobbery at all, they were most sociable and good mixers. No wonder that they got on so well with the men.

Yes they were a very fine crowd and I met some of them later in the North African desert during the 1939/45 war. As a matter of fact I spent two days with them at Sidi Omar just before the fall of Tobruk. Here we one morning having breakfast when they were suddenly called up for an Order Group by the Commanding Officer. They dropped everything and at the double away to the C.O.'s meeting.

So after a very pleasant and instructive sojourn at Winchester I returned to the Regent Palace Hotel where Joyce had arrived the previous day and Mother and Lorna then next from Jersey. No after a most enjoyable holiday we were to pack up and return to East London. We were to embark at Southampton in the Warwick Castle for Home.

We had a very pleasant trip home in a fairly crowded ship but there was always that feeling of war in the air. In fact the Captain told me confidentially that he had to be prepared to change course at any time on instructions as there was always, if war should break out, the possibility of Submarine or enemy war ship attacks. Fortunately this did not happen though there was always the possibility.

In spite of all I must say we had a very pleasant ~~trip~~ voyage and spent some very jolly evenings with the Ships Doctor and Officer. Yes one can have a very pleasant ~~evening-~~ evening either dancing or just sitting and talking till late, sometimes, finishing up with the Chief Steward and one or two others in the galley having bacon and eggs or some other food we might fancy.

Mother amused herself reading and doing Jiz Saw puzzles with which we at times helped and even one or two of the deck hands would point out moves. There was one well known barrister who had been to England on a very big case and he used to do these puzzles all day. He said he had had a very strenuous time and he found this the finest form of relaxation.

We eventually arrived in Cape Town and were fortunate in having a clear view of Table Mountain to gaze upon. A wonderful sight with a blue sky. There are times however when a a cloud settles on the mountain like a table cloth and not another cloud to be seen.

We went ashore several times but were glad to be back on board and on the move again. When we reached Port Elizabeth there was Alister, Joyce's husband to meet her. next

Well we started packing for we were to land the ~~next~~ day and so would end a memorable holiday. And now we look forward to the next. As our house was still occupied we lived with Lorna's Mom for a while until the tenants moved out. We then moved in but it was not going to be for long as war was declared on the 3rd, Sept. 1939 and The Kaffrarian Rifles were called out for Active service the following June and being a member of the Regiment would have to go. But as we were service beyond the boundaries of the Union all those who wished to ~~serve~~ serve had to volunteer. When we started preparing to be called up we gave each member of the Unit the opportunity to volunteer. There were naturally some who could not leave for family or other urgent calls, but they were very few.

However we started recruiting and it was wonderful the support we got, not only from Eastlanders but from King Williams Town