

We eventually arrived in Bulawayo where we spent the day before catching the evening train to the Falls. It was a pleasant day and we went to a film show in the afternoon. On arrival at the station we were shown a compartment and I was again told that I was O.C. Train not that it entails any work but just in case there is trouble among Uniformed men.

I was still on service as the war did not end until June. I was taken prisoner on the 22nd June 1942, Released 28th March 1945, arrived in England 5th April. and returned to the Union on the 28th April. Released from full time Military Service 9th July 1945 and transferred to the reserve of officers 11th December 1945.

Now to get on with my story. After leaving Bulawayo we found the next compartment Colonel and Mrs Macilwaine. They were to spend a few days at the Falls before he returned to his staff duties up North. They were a very nice couple and we saw quite a lot of them. We arrived at the Falls and were met by the usual bevy of african porters from the hotel. They took charge of our baggage and we walked the few yards to the hotel. It is a very fine hotel and we were sorry not to be able to spend more time at the Falls but we had to go back and spend some time with the various members of my family.

I will not go into details about the Falls as you have read and heard about them. This was the third time I had stayed here. The last time being in 1929.

The Hotel keeps a very fine table and it is quite the custom to invite other guests to dine with you. Of course having invited guests you do not pay for their dinner but the drinks are up to you. So we were invited by the Macilwaines to dine with them and the next evening we returned the compliment. Two very pleasant evenings.

We explored the Falls together with the Mcilwaines until he left and then she used to accompany us. She was very keen on painting and so was Lorna at the time and we were able to lend her our paints.

We did the usual trip by launch up the river and then across the bridge to what is now Zambia for tea. Here it is amusing to watch the monkeys. As soon as you leave your table they are down and grab the sugar basin, if it has not been removed, and off up the nearest tree with it.

At this time there was not very much water coming over so one was able to see more, there not being so much spray. I have seen the Falls when there was very little water. However in what is known as the rain forest when there is a lot of water, the spray is like a real good shower of rain or even a storm.

Well, it was time to return, and so we left the Falls, regretting that we were not able to spend more time there. The first stop was to Serowe to spend some little while with my sister Madge and her husband Alfred Page-Wood, known for some reason or other as 'Kissie'. He was a well to do trader and though very much older than my sister, the two very much wanted to get married. Somehow my Mother was not keen but eventually they were married in Gaberones. They had two boys and a girl but the youngest was the only one at home.

Well we were duly met at Palapye Road station and driven the 36 miles to Serowe. Here as I have already mentioned I received a letter from the Assistant Resident Commissioner regarding permission to shoot game free of charge within reason.

I met Tchekedi who was acting Regent for the young chief Seretsi Khama, and he asked if I was going to do any shooting or hunting. When I told him of the Governments fine gesture he offered me the use of one of his wagons, driver etc. and a Bushman. And further suggested I do my hunting on his reserve.

After a couple of days we set out for the camping ground, the wagon had gone off early that morning and arrived at the camping spot shortly after us. We had chosen a nice shady spot under some fine big trees and a buck-sail was stretched from the wagon to the tree and this made a very fine shelter.