

Southampton- 6 A.M. Mid March and the Cape Town Castle Has just docked This is the third time Lorna and I have arrived in Southampton for a holiday in England, the other occasions being 1934 and 1939. As usual we were met by an official from The Union-Castle office who who was to help us through the Immigration and Customs. We had to be up early as there is always much to attend to and this time we of course had the children who soon became tired of the long wait but fortunately we had Min with us and she looked after them Having stacked all our baggage outside our cabins we proceeded down to breakfast.

Soon after our arrival we were met by the Automobile men who had been advise by the South African organisation of the cars we had taken over and the servicing that would be required. Connect battery and fill with oil and petrol. I must be remembered that at this time Britain was still being rationed with petrol. However for visitors we were allowed a certain amount including for travelling plus an amount to take us from Southampton to our destination and back which the A.A. man said would be of course be Southampton - John-O-Groats- and back as was the usual request. I must say we were allowed a very liberal amount.

Well it was getting on for 11 O'clock before our baggage was cleared through the Customs and the car landed and brought to us.

We duly loaded up the baggage which included a case of pine apples. a couple of which we gave to the porter.

Well we eventually set off through Southampton. After travelling a short way Annaliese became restless and Min thought that she wanted to we we and so we stopped the car and she was taken to a near by toilet but there was nothing doing. To stop further delays we decided to buy a potty on which she could sit in the car. Lorna asked a lady where we could buy one and was very surprised when told - "Just over there in the Post Office". We thought it a funny place to buy one but found that the Post Office . as in many places in England, is an Office come shop. So Annaliese sat on her throne for the rest of the trip to Evesham.

Judging by travel in this country with its miles of distance between town I thought we should reach our destination in the early afternoon but passing through town and villiages every few miles and having to slow up it took much longer. Anyway it was marvellous being back in England and travelling through some beautiful countryside.

We eventually passed through Evesham and a short distance futher ~~five~~ arrived at Salford Priors where we spotted Edith coming out of the Swan Hotel where she had just bought a packet of cigarettes at 10 for 1/9d. What a price.

I should have mentioned that at South ampton the Customs allowed us to take, free of duty a bottle of spirits and one of wine each and in addition 200 cigarettes each. which included the children for when we said we thought children were not included the man said " Every person is allowed so much and after all they are persons".

After arriving at Marys house , which was to be our headquarters while in England, as they had not enough room for us all we were taken to Salford Farm wher we were to stay for a few days. Lorna in her diary says "Mary and Edith stayed and had high tea with us and by the time they left it was getting dark and I had to unpack in the semi dark. We had two tiny little attick roomsinterleading in one of which Mark had to share a bed with Min. The children were duly fed and put to bed and mighty glad they were too as they were dead tired after the long car journey which Annaliese did not enjoy. It was not until years later that we discovered while travelling by car through the Transkei to Port St John tha she became sick and we then realised that she was a person who suffered from car sickness.

We ajourned to the lounge which was a very comfortable room with a nice fire burning. On the whole it was rather nice on the farm and gave us a chance to rest after our long inurney from home.