

after our long journey from home.

The next morning we went for a walk through the fields and Mark was thrilled when one of the farm hands who was busy ploughing took him for a run on the tractor. We got away the next day after paying our bill for/

£12 which I thought was rather a lot.

The old lady who ran the place was fond of her drink and strong too for when I offered her a tot of our brandy and offered to pour in the water she said 'No I like it neat'.

Mary gave us a map with which we found it very easy to find our way to Camberly and the Little Folks School. We set off in great spirits but Annaliese again gave a bit of trouble and so so stopped at Twyford for lunch. The school seemed rather a nice place and there seemed to be hundreds of toys. The nursery come school room was most attractive but the bedrooms to me looked a bit shoddy but on the whole I don't think English people are as fussy as us especially Lorna who must have everything just so. And please no crumbs on the carpet. Poor Mark was keen on us having lunch before leaving but we thought it best to just move off quietly. So while he was showing his new pals his tractor and Annaliese her dolls we sneaked away very sorry to leave the poor mights. A number of the children were from overseas, India etc. where their parents were stationed.

Our next job was to motor to London and see Mim off on her journey to Holland to meet her people.

As the Regent Palace, who we phoned said they could not accommodate us we booked in at the Railway Hotel at Staines about half an hour's run from London. Leaving the car at the hotel we took Min into the City and took her baggage to the Liverpool Station and then walked around a bit before having something to eat.

Then Lorna in her diary says "Then Geoff wanted dinner 18/- plus tax 2/- and a 2/- tip and we each had a brandy which cost 8/-. Dear oh dear Geoff must not choose the eating houses in future, leave that to me. We would have the same as we did last time, Soup, toast and tea for lunch at 10d each or something else at a Lyons or A.B.C. at the same price or Lyons dinner which with meat vegetables and sweets would cost 3/- each! There was a time when we stayed at the Regent Palace and had at a corner Lyons what was called Brunch. Egg, chop, chips, bacon and toast and tea for 1/-. Those were the days.

Quoting Lorna's diary—"Today the 14th. March Min got off safely full of excitement. She will be with her people tonight."

I had to go to the Union Castle Coy. in Fenchurch Street to get some more money and book our return passages which was to be in the Pretoria Castle sailing on the 25th. May and we were to have similar accommodation in the Pretoria Castle as that we had in the Cape Town Castle. We then went to the reception desk at the Regent Palace and reserved accommodation for the 23rd. March. We got back to the Railway Hotel at Staines and bought the children some Easter Eggs and prepared to leave for Salford the next day but before leaving bought some meat, kippers etc. to take back.

Lorna writes "We left just after nine and could have got back to Salford in time for dinner but, as they were not expecting us till the evening decided to lunch at the Swan Inn at Broadway a pretty little village always visited by Americans. Here in the main street one paid big prices for curios etc. which one could buy in one of the side streets at half the price. Having finished our meal we went out to the car and there were two South Africans having their snaps taken standing in front of the car which had with a foreign number plate had to show the country and on ours was Z.A. Zuid Afrika.

We eventually arrived at Salford and found our room in Mary's cottage, Orchard Cottage, very cosy and had been recently been painted a very pale green and Edith had provided the furnishings. There were daffodils in the bedside vase and the whole effect looked very pleasing. I am glad to now be unpacked, which I always do as soon as I settle in, for it then makes me feel more