

We had quite a long spell in London and, judging by Lorna's diary we seem to have spent a lot of time shopping and having to go to the office for more money, as Lorna puts it 'Believe it or not Geoff has gone to the office to get more money.' The trouble was having to go to shops where they sold outside costumes. Another game of Lorna's was to go to a shop where they were having a hat sale. I have already mentioned this but this won't do any harm. I went once but never again. Although it was most amusing to see all the women taking off their hats and trying on the sales stuff. Put their own hat down and the next person comes along and tries it on and decided 'just the thing' and away goes your hat.

Now let's hear what Lorna has to say. "Then we went into a milliner's and bought a small black hat, so with my bag, gloves and shoes I now have a complete outfit. In addition to all other purchases

After a supper of sandwiches which Geoff had bought at Lyons in our room we went to Sadler Wells to see the Opera 'Cavaliere Rusticano and Paglici. I cannot tell you how thrilling it was. It was too late to write when we got back to the Hotel just after 12 and I did not get to sleep until after three. The Soprano in the first piece was Amy Shuard, who had a magnificent voice—so full and rich. When she heard her husband had been killed she screamed—the note was so full of upset and so true and piercing—it made us feel quite cold and certainly goosey. At the end of that show the applause brought the house down. She got curtain after curtain—people would not stop clapping and applauding. The music of the second piece was more familiar to me and extremely good. The Soprano lead voice was good but could not be compared with the first. On the whole the men's voices were very good, all had fine voices—and the orchestra—40 members or more—tuned up with wind instruments, many others and the harp. The harp player did quite a bit of solo work—I wished I could have been there

The orchestra work too was good, and so were the choruses. 'Twas a lovely evening. I only wished I could have been there to capture the feeling of excitement as the orchestra—40 or more—tuned up with wind instruments, violins, flutes etc and the harp. The harp player had quite a lot of soloist work to do and it was too beautiful. The conductor seemed to be quite a young man of about 38 I should think. He seemed completely exhausted at the end of both performances when he went onto the stage with the players.

Next day we went to Victoria station to see my cousin Edward and his wife Eileen, who were off to Paris for the week on the usual excursion. They carried very little in the way of kit just a napsack each as they intend to do a lot of walking. The children had been left with the Nanny at Seahouse where we were to spend a few days with them on the next motor trip. I must now get on with my packing as we are returning to Salford tomorrow.

While Lorna packs I will add a bit more to this story. We have certainly had a wonderful time in London but there is so much we should like to have done, walk along the Mall to Buckingham place and watch the changing of the Guard and the hundreds of visitors doing the same. This always gives one a thrill though we have seen it several times before. Then there is that lovely walk along the banks of the Thames, then take a trip up the river to Richmond, see the Tower of London, the Mint and later stand below Big Ben to hear the striking of the chimes a sound which will be heard in many places in the world. There used to be a programme on the wireless "Beneath Big Ben when the man talked of everyday events, of the people in the streets passing by etc. This we always looked forward to when one could imagine you were