

botched all the items. The skirt of my costume had three darts too many at the back which gives me a fresh ait bottom. Geoff's suit too was hopeless. The man said he would do his best and we were to call again, we should never have gone to those cheap taylors known before the war as the fifty shilling taylors. We then went along to the Unions Castle Office to get the passes for Mary and Edith and also to ask when they wanted the car delivered for shipping. After dinner while I rested Geoff and the children amused themselves cleaning the de Soto car. Later after tea we drove into the New Forest and walked about and saw quite a number of the wild Forest ponies.

21st Every day brings us nearer home but we shall leave with mixed feelings for May is such a beautiful month in England.

On Saturday we drove into Lindhurst to buy a few items we needed and then parked on the outskirts of the town to watch a country cricket match. It was most interesting and on one occasion the ball seemed to have got lost in some thick undergrowth and it was amusing to see the members of both teams hunting for the lost ball. It was during this that a couple of little boys came along and informed us that we had a puncture. This was our first. They were very interested in the changing of the wheel.

We have taken many walks in the forest, beautiful trees, and even went to see the stone which marks the spot where William Rufus was shot, not by a gun but bow and arrow.

23rd. We have here met a very nice elderly couple, Mr and Mrs Bound and she has been very good with the children, even doing some of their washing. The children call her the Good Fairy.

At 11-30 this morning we went to the Southampton railways station to meet Min who had left Holland and her people the evening before, and the children were delighted and full of joy to meet her. She was looking exceptionally well and said she had had a very happy time with her people. She was always grateful for our having given her a chance to see her people which otherwise she may not have seen for years on account of the heavy travelling expences. She was very good and we were grateful to her too. She shared a first class cabin with the children, and had her breakfast and lunch with them but dined with us at dinner time.

The good Fairy and her husband were in the lounge and as it was a bit freshish we had a nice fire which I always enjoy. Min told us about the bathing in Holland which is very popular as apparently there is a great shortage of bathrooms in Holland. She told us that homes heat water on the stove and either have a sponge down or put the water in a small tin bath-hateful. Mrs Bound then said 'Oh they wash down as far as possible and then up as far as possible but does poor old possible get washed at all?'

Mrs Bound adores children and usually accompanied us into town and took charge of Annaliese until Min arrived.

We did our last shopping in Southampton-not a very nice town- still showing the marks of the German raids.. We bought a few clothing appparels for the children and then visited the taylor. What a bother we have had with them- My utility coat looks like a sack and Geoff's suit was an absolute failure so Geoff asked the man if he would accept such stuff and he agreed with us and said No. He then phoned his London Office and ~~was refunded~~ ~~and we were refunded~~ agreed to refund our deposit.. Rather disa pointing in a way but suited us as we were getting rather short of cash. The next day we took the car into Southampton for shipping. This was to be attended to by the A.A.I must say the Union Castle Officials have been most helpful in seeing to our luggage etc.

Sunday 25th. May. Lorna continues her dairy at sea. "I was too busy to write just before we sailed and here we are now three dyas out from Southampton in beautiful sunny weather though there is a breeze which calls for jerseys. To get back to Ashhurst (Geoff I mentioned the Angry Cheese was at Lyndhurst-it was Ashurst bt Lyndhurst Road)

end of page 208-  
Angry Cheese was  
at Lyndhurst, it  
was Ashurst bt  
Lyndhurst Road)  
While we did  
last minute  
packing Min  
took the  
children for  
walks in