

in the Forest. When we took the car in we loaded on it as much of our baggage as we could and after delivering it took a bus back to Ashurst. Mary and Edith who had motored down in Mary's car had arrived in the early evening both looking extremely smart but feeling the cold. The children had picked some buttercups for their room. Next morning we woke early to find it raining hard but the taxi called for us at 10 and we were on board at 10-30 which was quick work thanks to the help of the Union Castle staff. As soon as we got aboard Min and the children began to unpack and settle in but having Mary and Edith we could not. We showed them round the ship including our accommodation the comfort of which surprised them. I must say it is a treat to have a nice big port hole cabin with bath and toilet. After lunch which they thoroughly enjoyed we sat talking until 3-30 when it was time for them to go ashore and though we pleaded with them not to stand out in the rain but rather to return to the hotel, they insisted and stayed until the ship pulled out and they waved us goodbye. It was the Pretoria Castle, now the Orange, and it meant we had to stand out on the deck and talk to them, but we were under cover. I imagined them catching cold and developing the most hacking coughs, though they stood just inside the shed, those sheds can be mighty draughty.

As we have about nineteen children in the first class Mark and Annaliese are in their element. Of these five are pram babies from four to eighteen months, and the others range from 2½ to nine, so they have high jinks, as you can imagine. There must be about 100 to 120 adults and all seem very friendly and nice though we haven't the characters we had coming over and characters can be.

We passed the island of Paulo Saulo a short while back and are due at Madeira at about 2-30 P.M.

We have decided not to go ashore but hope to have fun on the ship. I always enjoy watching the men with their wares and listening to the bargaining and the hubub which is part of the show. I like Lorna's disbursement of the money Nan Perks gave her to buy articles for her. With your money Nan I have bought a Jersey, £2-12-6, Shoes, London tan swede crepe soled which I hope you will like-I am however a bit dubious- £1-7-9, one pair Nylon Stockings from the ship's shop 12/6d and two packs of playing cards 6/- so you have 1/3d to you credit.

4th June. It is Sunday- the church service just over- and Captain Brown was very disappointed as there was a very poor attendance as compared with last Sunday. Captain Brown is a very religious man and likes to preach a long sermon which drags the service out as compared with Captain Wren on our homeward journey the congregation was very good. He skips the sermon and the service only lasts half an hour. At these services the Chief Officer always reads the lesson but it is the Captain's prerogative to conduct the service even if there is a minister of Religion aboard. If there happens to be a person aboard they usually arrange a service and communion.

Captain Brown is however the only one who has the children up to his cabin on the Sunday afternoon and Min is going to the service with the children. Min has been a real gem and I do not know what we should have done without her, and the children are very fond of her. She really appreciates having dinner with us in the saloon, three of us at a table. It was your birthday yesterday Mother, 3rd June and we drank to your health. Geoff. This was my Mother of whom Lorna was very fond. Lorna says I hope you received the cable on today and not before or after.

Last night the fancy dress dance was held and considering the few passengers we have the turn out was very good and though there was nothing original some of the dancers continued their frivolity into the early hours of the morning and now I am sure have some heads. Regarding sports, many of the passengers walked out of the lounge

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out of the lounge
when the Purser
suggested holding a
meeting, and so we
thought there would be
no organised games.
After a few days however
passengers changed/