

As Mrs Pailotte was still with us and could take charge of the children Lorna and I took ship to Cape Town as Mr Gibb had now returned from England. After a week there however I was suffering ~~such~~ such pain that we decided to return home and let the doctors take over.

After various treatments, tests and exrays the doctors strongly advised a major operation.

Well I entered the hospital early in July and after two days was wheeled into the theatre where there were five doctors waiting. I was not a bit worried, probably because I did not realise the seriousness of the op. for I remember telling one of the theatre nurses to tell her boy friend, who had promised to lend me a radion, not to bring it in the next day but to wait a day or two. Well I am not going to dwell on this too long except to say that the op. was started at eight on a thursday morning and did not finish until just before two that afternoon. I remember coming to at ten that night and saying a few days to the nurse specialising and then went off. The doctor said the chances of my leaving the hospital were fifty fifty but through faith and carefull attention of everyone after ten days I was again allowed to see visitors as I was now out of danger. Apparently the ulcer was very high up and needed the prising of the ribs. Yes after two weeks the the glucose and blood transfusion was stopped and the first food I had was half an ounce of jelly. The hardest part was only being allowed two ouncws of water a day to drink or sip. It is interesting to note that during the time one is not eating or drinking, ones bowls and urinating carry on as usual so that the blood and glucose must act as food. I must say that Lorna was a brick for she visited me twice sometimes three times a day until I was out of danger. The second day Mrs Pailotte was allowed to bring the children in and I remember Mark brought me a book and Anneliese her Bible.

It was not until the end of September that I was allowed to leave the hospital and as I left the Matron said 'We never expected to see you leave the hospital alive'. I-~~see~~ and when I tankde the doctors they said 'Dont thank us it was your faith and will power that brought you through'. Before leaving the hospital I read through my variocys reports and the one that thrilled me was 'Nopalignancy seen as in these cases there is always the fear of cancer. I now ~~had~~ had to take things quietly and was not able to go back to work until mid October.

The children were at school and used to come along to the hospital every afternoon after school. Ae Poor Lorna had an anxious and rough time visiting and sitting with me.

I must not forget to mention that when I was to have my last set of stitches out, two others had already been taken out, Jock Watt, the surgeon came in to do the job as they were long wire stitches, As he leaned over me pulling them out he detailed to me stroke by stroke the winner of the S.A. Golf champion ship, whic he had wached on the local course, the play of the winner.

Now Lorna was to be compensated. She loved a holiday in England.

I had applied for my 1955 overseas trip, and as I had to avoid the cold weather in England asked if I could travel over in May so as to avoid it. To this they agreed and as soon as I heard I phoned Lorna that I would be leaving in May when would sh end the children like to travel. She was thrilled and it was decided that she and the children leave at the end of the school term at the beginning of December. Well we had to start making all necessary arrangements. There was the letting of the house and making .necessary arrangement

arrangements for the childrens schooling while in England. Then there was the booking of accomodation for Lorna and the children in London prior ro their going to school.

The house we let to a man from upcountry, van Rensberg who I remember had a very big car which necessitated our cutting back