

the boat train to Southampton where we were met by a Union Castle Of: official who saw us through the Immigration and Customs. It does make such a difference having some one who knows the officials and the ropes to help one through.

Well we got aboard and how nice it was going to be not to worry as to where we were going to have a meal. We soon settled in our cabins in the same alleyway. Mark and Annaliese had single berth cabin each and Lorna and I were lucky for while sitting in the smoke room before lunch with one of the managers from London he said that we could have the deluxe cabin which had just been cancelled by the people who had booked it. So we were in luck way having a nice big cabin with bath and toilet .

We sailed on time and were soon going down the English channel and the usual rough sea one Bay of Biscay did not materialise, instead we had a calm to Madeira which we reached after a few days where at that time the ships anchored in the bay whereas today they go alongside the new quays which is not quite as interesting as in the past. It was great fun watching the little boats coming out carrying the local men and women with their beautifully hand made cloths, and a hundred and one other items for sale even I believe "Dirty post cards". The little boys and men from their small boats dived for the coins thrown to them. Of course the water is very clear and the coins sink very slowly. Then there is the boy who comes up on deck and "Me high dive" and you toss a coin into the sea and he dives from the bridge deck. All the time the occupants of the boats are calling out "Missy see little boy dive".

Quite a number of people went ashore but we decided to remain on board and just wonder about looking and listening to the bargaining. Yes one never pays the price asked for, you must bargain and they expect it. In fact I believe, with some, if you want to buy another similar article and offer the price you have just paid they say no and ask for the higher price, Once more you bargain, he hoping you will offer more than for the previous article.

At Madeira they fish for a certain fish which is caught at a depth of 3000 feet but dies as soon as it reaches the surface. These are served for breakfast the next morning and are a great delicacy.

Now we started on the long run to Cape Town and it is strange how little shipping one sees, Yes the Ocean is very big.

A sports committee is now formed from among the passengers one of whom will be chairman . The actual work an organisation is done by one of the Purser's staff. All sorts of games are arranged, deck quoits, bucket quoits, Shuffle board, tenniquoits, bridge etc. and of course table tennis. Most of the passengers enter and this creates quite a lot of fun and at the same time gives one something to do. Each morning tickets are sold at 2/- in a sweep draw for the Captain's number and many others. We took three each days hoping some day to be lucky and draw a number. The Captain is then asked to give his estimated run for the 24 hours. Say it is 450 miles then ten numbers below and above that number are drawn for that is 21 including the captains. That is numbers 440 to 461 are drawn for and the drawers of the lucky numbers and many others assemble on deck for the auctioning of the numbers. Although they may not have drawn a lucky number quite a number are prepared to buy a number in the hopes that it may win. The owner of the ticket auctioned is of course entitled to half the price paid. This means that the owner of a ticket may bid, if he fancies the number, as he will only pay half the price. So in many cases owners of numbers are prepared to just sit and take half the price rather than take a chance. As the purchase of tickets is open to the Tourist Class as well anything up to 300 tickets may be sold, which means if you have bought three tickets your chances are 100 to 1 in of drawing a number. At eleven passengers begin to assemble and there on a black board are written the numbers say 440 to 461 will be put up for auction and a good auctioneer can almost persuade the

end of page 219-
assembled that
the Captain's
number is away
out. The numbers
are put in a hat
and as they are
drawn out
auctioned and
the bidding may
be brisk
especially when
there are
syndicates
bidding. On
about the/