

On about the sixth or seventh day out we drew a number which I remember so well 448 and the Captains number was 449 which is no doubt the syndacits would go for. Well as you can imagine Lorna and I and the two children were very interested in the auction. So we took up our position and each of had a drink which we continued to sipping our drinks and holding thumbs.

Travelling with us was a Dr. King, one of the worlds leading Gynaecologists who was going to South Africa to attend a world conference of Gynaecologists of which he was President. Here he was to meet an old friend of his a well known East London Gynaecologist Dr. Wadle. We noticed that this doctor with one or two others were working a syndacit in buying numbers. Well our number came up, and knowing that I would only have to pay half bid up and it was knocked down to me at £12. This was a lot of money as we had come aboard nearly broke but fortunately the Purser Knibbs, an old friend of mine advanced me £25 until we arrived in East London.

After the auction we retired to the smoke room excepting Mark who hung about on deck waiting to hear the announcement of the winner. which is always ~~ann~~ just after twelve o'clock after the Captain and Officers officers have shot the sun.

Shortly after twelve Mark came running into the smoke room very excited shouting 'We've won, We've won.' and shortly afterwards the smoke room steward came in and gave me the news. He of course runs the sweep and asked if he could put up the usual drinks. I said yes and went in to join them and fortunately there were only about half a dozen so I got off with a cheap round. We were congratulated by a number of the passengers who said "Thank goodness the syndacits were beaten". Well after paying for the drinks and tipping the Steward we received £75 - A windfall.

A few days earlier Lorna and I decided to have a cocktale party in the lounge for the 48 first class passengers ~~th~~ Captain Deller and some of his officers and unbeknown to us the days was to be the day after we won the sweep. It was a most succesful party which lasted until dinner time. In those days such a party was not as expencive as one would think. They had a wonderful lot of snake, super which are supplied by the ship free of charge. Today they charge about a Rand a tray. As to drinks the most expencive would be whisky and soda at 1/6d. Of the 48 passengers, some would have two drink but very few three. I must repeat whar snake, far better than one can get ashore here. Well our party including tips to the stewards cost us £10.

Some of the guests said "Good job you won the sweep" forgetting that they had been invited days before. Any way I was able to refund my loan from the Purser and when I got back to East London and told Mr. Gibb, the Manager about the party he immediately said it was a fair claim for entertaining and so I received a refund of my £10.

It was a very pleasant voyage everyone being so friendly which makes the voyage. There were the usual deck games, dances- of which I am not a great lover-though Lorna is. Then is the usual Derby, a most amusing show. The men enter their horses who are ladies wearing their colours then there is the usual staff of judges, starter, vet and others including the clerk of the course, my job. I had to carry a pair of field glasses but not having any I tied two beer bottles together to look like glasses and many were the enquiries as to the contents of which several insisted on sampling. The horses are paraded round before each of one of the five races and they are checked by the Vet who was Dr. King, and being a doctor you can imagine what fun he created. The procedure before each race is that five lengths of tape, one end pinned to the rail wher the jockeys stand to encourage their mounts. Each lady then takes up the other end of the tape and with a pair of curved nail cissors has to try and cut the tape into two length lengths. Some of the poor ladies are so nervous that they can hardly hold the tape and cissors. The usual tote is run and we put on our bets. in 2/- on your fancy.