

Well all good things come to an end we eventually arrived in East London, and back to work after a most enjoyable holiday during which we were almost broke but happy especially after winning that sweep.

After going back into our house we decided that as Mark had had an experience of Boarding house life he should go to boarding school so we arranged for him to go to Queens College in Queenstown, the following year 1956. I think every boy should at some time go to board boarding school and learn to live away from home comforts for a while. I personally had years of boarding school life as there were no schools for us in the Bechuanaland Protectorate and I enjoyed every year and am sure has been to my benefit. Queens College had a very fine reputation and there were a number of East London boys there including some of Marks friends. As Queenstown is only a matter of 150 miles from East London it meant that during his week end off during the quarter we could take a run up to Queenstown to visit him. He very soon settled down and used to write cheerful letters, when like most boys he only wrote when he wanted either pocket money or a tuck box.

I remember on one occasion Mark and I walked up towards a hill called Mdeirs and we met a boy who was proudly showing everyone a puff adder he was proudly holding, by the neck. Having had a lot of experience with snakes myself, I warned him of the danger but like all boys he thought he knew best. Well shortly after this he had to rushed to hospital as the snake had bitten him. Fortunately he soon recovered as he had had immediate attention. But I am sure he had had snakes.

Many ships adopt ships and in this connection Queens had adopted, at the request of the Principal, who had asked me how to go about the procedure. I explained what usually happened when adopted ships entered a South African Port. A ship adopted by Selborne Primary would, on arrival in East London, contact the school and arrange a days entertainment. If Queens adopted a ship, as they eventually did, the ship would try and contact them. In the case of Selborne they adopted the Drakensberg Castle and when the ship arrived in East London Mr. Stevens, the Principal took some of the boys down to the ship where they had breakfast. Later some of the officers went to Selborne to give a talk and in the afternoon with some of the crew a football match was arranged. The ships Captains always kept in touch with the boys by letter and on one occasion a Captain Stevens, wrote a long letter describing how a leopard, one of the many animals they were carrying to America, escaped and jumped overboard, he then told how they had eventually recaptured the animal and brought it aboard.

Well Queens adopted the Rochester Castle, a Union Castle ship, which still bore the shell marks caused by enemy fire, while she was in convoy carrying all sorts of war material to Maltaa. She was one of four ships that got through of a convoy of ten. The Captain of the ship was Captain Wren, who later became commodore of the Union-Castle fleet. While in port on one occasion as Captain of the Pretoria Castle was able to invite to lunch a Captain Cossar, then commanding the Clan Mackenzie, to lunch as they were both in the convoy but unfortunately Cossars ship was sunk and he was in a F.C.W. camp with me. On her next visit to East London the Rochester Castle, after her adoption by Queens, the Captain, Lloyd decided to visit with four of his officers Queens College. We had a very happy day with the boys, twenty of whom I took to lunch at the local hotel including Mark. I suggested that the boys sit at their own table instead of sitting with us. And did they enjoy themselves. I dont think the hotel made much out of them because they went right through the menu, even seconds. Captain Lloyds later became commodore of the Union Castle fleet, and I have travelled with this South African born skipper