

write a sup. But I said I would rather start work. As it was still advisable for me to remain at the coast, I decided to try East London and managed to get a job with the Union-Castle Co. to commence work when my parents left for Serowe at the beginning of February 1913. I was to serve a four year apprenticeship at the princely salary of £40 per annum with increments of £20 per year. It is a good company and though it was a struggle at first - though my Dad helped with my board - I do not regret having joined this Company as I have received very good treatment both during my service and during my pension period. They certainly do look after their staff.

I started work on the 1st February 1913 at the Company's Dock Office which in those days was on the river near where the present Graving Dock is sited. It was a very long walk from St James Road in Southernwood to the Docks as I could not afford tram fares. For lunch I went into the Queens Park with two others where we had our sandwiches. It was a very pleasant break and the park was an ideal spot then. I was boarding with the Duvoisins, the wife and daughters of a Basutoland missionary who had died recently. My board cost £6 per month but as I could not manage this my Dad paid for it. There was another young chap staying with them, Jack Wilson, who was also at the College with me but was taking law and articled to a local firm of Attorneys.

I was attached to the claims department which work was very interesting but was later transferred to the shipping department in their town office building which was later bought by the East London Dispatch when the company decided to rent a block of offices. At this time the ships did not enter the harbour i.e. the larger vessels, and all cargo was landed and shipped by means of lighters towed out to the anchored ship by the Railway and Harbours tugs. Passengers and labour - native and European - were taken to and from the ship by the Union Castle tugs = Stork and Penguin - which were berthed at the landing jetty near their dock office.

It seemed as though I had hardly started work when I was off again, this time to join the army in August 1914. The Co. encouraged fit members to join up and they sanctioned my joining the Local Unit Kaffrarian Rifles. From then until after the war I saw very little of the office with the exception of two very - or rather one short spell of two months - I was away on active service. Shortly after commencing our training in the old show ground - where the present Frere Hospital is now - the Regiment paraded for Colonel Smedley Williams, the Officer Commanding - who was a master at Selborne. We paraded as he wanted to inspect his command and at the same time pick out a few men who were required to fill the vacancies for non-commissioned ranks. There were about 1,000 of us on parade, most of them were men who were called up under the new defence act of 1912. There were a great many who had volunteered for service for the duration of hostilities or six months whichever was the shorter period. On the completion of six months, however, and hostilities were still being carried on then one could extend your service. I was one of these and extended my service at the end of