

play up merry blazes and no one dared go near him. He was a powerful chap. I remember on day at dinner someone upset him and he stood up and brought his fist down on the table with such force that the dishes just rattled. It was the time to call the only man who could manage him, a very small and weak looking chap by the name of White. "Come on White you had better take care of your pal before he gets into trouble". Up would jump little White and walking up to Adams would say "Come on ol pal you have had enough". Adams would follow little White as meekly as a lamb and go off to his room.

I was due for transfer to Gullane Drome just a few miles south of Edinburgh as they were very short of instructors having ha a couple killed lately.

Before going I got a weeks leave and went down to London. As usual all the hotels were booked up but I went along to the R.A.F. headquarters in the Hotel Cecil on the Strand knowing that all hotels had to keep a certain number of rooms for them until 8pm. I knew the drill for when asked if you were on leave the answer was 'No' but if you said you were on duty they would phone a hotel and ask them to book you in.

The morning after arrival, it was a Monday, I went along to Cox's Bank, into which our cheques were paid each month, to cash a cheque. There were quite a lot of girls in the bank, some pretty and some tough looking, and when I remarked to the teller who had just been to check my account before cashing my cheque, that there seemed to be a lot of the fair sex in the bank that morning. 'Yes' he said they have all come to cash cheques given to them by their boy friends who have spent the night or weekend with them and 'all accounts have to be checked before payment is made'. Just then the next teller told one of the girls that he was very sorry he could not cash the check as the officer had no credit'. She made a hell of a fuss and quite unashamedly said to him, "Well, I have been raped and he seemed such a fine lad. Gave me a big box of chocolates and that is all I got for entertaining him for the night". Had it been present day she would have probably have said, 'Have you a Barclay Card?'

I went to a couple of shows including that popular show which carried on right through the war, "The Windmill". This show has now closed down, a show which was seen by practically every one who went to London.

I returned to Edzell to pack up and go to Gullane from where I was later to return to South Africa.

Shortly after my arrival in Gullane the Armistice was signed but as there had been no peace treaty signed the policy was to continue training pilots. I had five S.E.5 and 2 on Camels and two on initial training on Avros.

We had here a very fine Commanding Officer who arranged for the duty lorry going into Edinburgh with mail etc. and returning with goods for the drome, to leave the drome immediately after lunch and leave the Railway Station in Princes Street, Edinburgh, at 11pm. This enabled a few chaps to go into the city to a show and get a lift back. There was also the privilege of arranging for a seat for the return trip only. In the latter case I would fly an Avro Machine with an advanced pupil to land in a field at Arthur's Seat, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, and there catch a tram into the city and later return in the duty bus. The Avro would then be flown back to the drome by the pupil. This worked very well.

There were in the City two families that I knew very well from East London: George Davidson, a farmer from Impetu, Komgha who was there serving with the Ministry of Munitions; and the other was the late Douglas Wilson's family, he was serving in the army.

I spent many a day on Davidson's farm shooting partridge and Bush Buck. The Bush Buck shooting I did not care for so much as one stood outside some thick bush in a valley while beaters chased the game out. I was used to going after game and shooting out in the open. Here the poor buck stood very little chance of survival if he came out of the bush for there were other chaps at various points. I now thought there was no longer any need for me to remain in

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