

England. So I had a chat with the C.O. and he quite agreed with me and advised me to see the Adjutant and ask him to have all the necessary documents prepared and arrange for me handing over my pupils to another instructor.

I duly handed in all R.A.F. property with the exception of a pair of flying gloves. These I said I had mislaid but as I hadn't the time to look for them they had better debit my account.

Having packed and settled my mess account I was all ready to leave for Edinburgh, actually, I had to go to the Castle to have all my papers signed. This was on a Friday.

We spent a merry evening together and I bid my friends cheerio and retired early to bed. I had made many friends even among the old chaps who had been called up for service as batmen to relieve younger men for active service. We had a lot of young officers, straight from college, some of whom thought themselves the salt of the earth. One morning I heard one of these youngsters calling out "Batman bring me some shaving water". Immediately I heard a Canadian instructor call this young chap and said, "You young whipper snapper calling an old man, old enough to be your Grandfather, to bring you shaving water. Now run along young man and get it yourself". That stopped some of that nonsense.

I was up early next morning, Saturday, and was motored into Edinburgh and up to the Castle where I arrived about 10.30 am. Here I was told that as it was Saturday and that there was no one to sign my papers. Now I was in the middle as when I had advised the Union-Castle that I was applying for my discharge they wired back to say a berth had been reserved for me in the Balmoral Castle sailing in five days time. I felt very disappointed and felt like just taking a chance and go to London where perhaps there might be some one to fix me up. Just as I was leaving I spotted a General walking towards the entrance gate so I rushed up to him, threw him a smart salute apologized for stopping him. I then explained my position and he was very sympathetic and said: "Come along with me and I will get you fixed up". In about half an hour I was off to catch my train for London where, on arrival, I went to the Headquarters of the R.A.F. and explained my reason for being in London. As it was duty I was fixed up with hotel accommodation at the Strand Palace. Next morning I went along to the Union-Castle office in Fenchurch Street and was handed my ticket and a warrant to Southampton where I embarked on the Balmoral Castle on the day of sailing. Here I found that I was sharing a cabin with Goodman of our Cape Town office and two other chaps of the Durban office. The ship was packed. I soon made a few friends and we had a very comfortable voyage, especially as, on account of there no longer being the danger of Subs, there was no black out.

The usual sports were arranged and these helped to pass the time. There was one snag and that was as there had been an epidemic of Spanish Flu in England, from which hundreds of people had died, we kept out in the Bay for some days before being allowed to land as they did not want the disease to be started in the Union.

I left the ship at Cape Town as she was not calling at East London and travelled by train for the rest of the way home.

I duly reported to the Union-Castle Co. and was told that I was still on Military duty pending my final discharge and that I should take a months leave.

Of this I was very pleased and so left by train for Palapye Road and the home of my parents in Serowe.

In Mafeking I was met by my sister Bimbi and brother Gerald who were both in the Bechuanaland Protectorate Government Service and stationed at the Headquarters in Mafeking.

My eldest sister, Madge, would be with my Mother and Dad in Serowe where my Dad was Resident Commissioner for the Bamangkwetse Reserve of which Khama was chief. He was the grandfather of the present Seretse Khama, Prime Minister of the Setswana self governing State.

My Dad/