

United Nations Sanctions. These sanctions are not observed by all countries. The United Nations started off as a well thought out scheme to get all nations working in co-operation. Today with all of these small states coming in it has lost its identity as far as many nations are concerned. Today a nation, like, India with its population of millions and millions has on the United Nations only one vote as against a country like Lesotho with a population of under one million. Both have the same voting power. How it will all work out remains to be seen. Certain nations have a veto vote which means that if all the members vote for one thing which say Russia does not fancy, she has a veto vote and that is that. Let me leave the United Nations which would shock our hero, General Smuts, were he alive. Still I feel that Statesmen that he was I am sure matters could be settled.

I am afraid I digress too often but I do like to record items of interest as they come to me while I write. Take the following. Across the bay, about five miles away, is a small village of Sofala and it is said that it is here that the Queen of Sheba used to land, having come down the East Coast of Africa from Egypt, and go inland in search of gold. I think it is quite feasible, for from Sofala to the Zimbabwe Ruins there are ruins of old forts and diggings. Is this not the country of which Rider Haggard wrote, Allan Quartermain, King Solomon's mines etc?

My particular friend on the Beira staff was Garnet Lowe, the Accountant who was busy courting the daughter of Mr and Mrs Adamson, Editor of the Beira Mail. He would often, before I twigged his scheme, suggest our calling on the Adamsons for a homely chat. While I talked to the parents they would quietly slip away on some pretence. He eventually married the girl and whenever we went to Cape Town they were very kind in entertaining us.

To finance the Portuguese Sports Club they used to run a fare now and again and for this they collected bottles of liquor, groceries, and sundry other goods from the local stores and then ran all sorts of side shows, gambling etc to get rid of these items. There was Hoopla where one received three rings for a certain amount and you had to ring articles laid out on a table or ring bottles. Shooting galleries etc. We all decided to patronise one of these shows and spend a bit of money in a good cause, keep sport going. We had one chap on the staff, Widdicomb, about six foot seven and with the ringing of the bottles he was able to reach well over the rail and had no difficulty in ringing quite a number of bottles. We in the end collected quite a number of bottles and snacks and so decided to throw a Cocktail party which was a great success. I must say that the chaps behaved themselves and there was no over drinking. What was left over was given to various members of the staff.

With the big rise in the tide the coasters and small fishing boats used to anchor over a sand bar in the shallow part of the bay at a very high tide. When the tide went out these vessels were left high and dry and scraping and painting could take place and on the rising tide they would once more float and be ready for work.

Lowe went on leave and I relieved him but on his return I was due to return to East London. I enjoyed my stay in Beira and found the people including the Portuguese very friendly. However, there is no place like home and on Lowes return I was quite ready to pack and get ready for my return journey.

Owing to the East Coast allowance and low cost of our messing, I was able to save a bit and on arrival in East London found that I had received a small increase of £50 a year in salary, a fortune in those days. I was promoted to Chief Passenger Clerk as Wilson the head of the passenger department had been transferred to Cape Town. This was for me quite a big lift up.

This was in 1924/