

There was not much to write of during the next few years. We lived a quiet life and I carried on with golf and Lorna her tennis.

Our next move was a trip overseas, as we were entitled to a free trip overseas every four years I decided to take mine in 1935. The only stipulation was that we were to travel in the off season, that is January to early March. It is surprising that so few members of the staff took advantage of the opportunity. Most of them said it was too expensive but I pointed out that just the trip over and back on the next ship is what they should do. The trip over, free board for six weeks is an education. No, they would rather take their leave in this country even though they would only get six weeks instead of three months as one does going overseas.

We were both very keen on going to England and so we decided to in late February which would bring us back in late June. I had had a trip to England during the first war but Lorna had been over twice before.

We sublet the house to Jock Barbour, editor of the E.L. Dispatch and boarded the Windsor Castle, later sunk in the North African landings in 1943. The Captain was Trunky Morgan whom I got to know while I was relieving in Beira in 1923. He was the skipper of the Coaster 'Ipu'. We had a most delightful trip taking part in all the various deck games and meeting many delightful people. Among them were a Mr & Mrs Fraser Parks, older than us but very friendly and did not take part in many of the games. However, we used to meet every day and have long chats. They had been out to South Africa on a short tour. They were an unpretentious couple and by the look of them we thought they must have had a struggle to pay for a first class return passage. How sadly mistaken we were for we were asked to spend a long week-end with them later. But I will mention this later.

We, eventually, arrived at Waterloo Station and straight away took a taxi to the Regent Palace Hotel in Piccadilly where we had booked before leaving home. On arrival at the hotel and having booked in we were shown to our double room, the baggage being brought up later.

The charge for the double room was 15/- (single rooms being 9/-). I think the rates today are £3 and 30/- maybe more now. What a difference. After the baggage had been brought up we decided to go across the road to a restaurant that had been recommended, for lunch, and what a lovely feed it was too. We were talking about it the other day when the shortage of meat was mentioned here. That wonderful roast beef, so tender, and vegetables all for less than 5/-. I am not quite sure what the charge was but I can remember there were four of us and a pound note covered the cost.

Lorna always likes to unpack and this having been done we decided to look around and do some window shopping.

Two days later we were to meet Lorna's Uncle Martin Laurie, a professor of Maths at Cambridge University, her Aunt Cissy, the two boys, Zennie and Edward, and Mary, a charming family. I can well remember meeting them outside Boots, the chemist shop in Regent Street and then going for tea. We had a long talk and promised to spend some time with them in Cambridge. They were a charming family and looked forward to seeing more of them.

We went to a couple of shows and then decided to spend the second week-end in Cambridge.

It was a delightful weekend. We were taken out punting on the Cam. I tried to punt for a while but after running into the bank several times handed over to Mary who was apparently an expert.

The two boys were at one of the Colleges: one taking Engineering and the other Law.

The following weekend they were holding their annual dance and so we were taken up and shown the arrangements. In the grounds was pitched a very large tent which was to be used for the catering, being done by some well known firm.

The dance band /