

The dance band from London was to cost over £100. Apparently money was no object as long as the show was a real success. We were then taken to a country restaurant a few miles out where they had booked in for their breakfast. The usual rule is that after the dance, which lasts until the early morning, the couples or parties go out for their breakfast and then home.

On returning to London we decided to see a few shows and to get the cheap seats, unreserved, we queued up on the pavement. Here one could hire a chair, or rather a stool, sit for a while and then mark the chair and return later to again claim your seat. No one ever pinched a chair. To entertain the people, various acts were carried out by men, singing, instrument playing etc, and as each chap finished his turn he took the hat along and one could give a small donation. These were probably out of work theatre men. In this way one could see a show at a reasonable price.

All our mail was addressed to the Union Castle Co., 3 Fenchurch Street where one could either call or ask for it to be forwarded. In this they were very good. Towards the end of each month I also collected from the Office my salary which I banked with a Lloyds bank in the city. We were thoroughly enjoying our stay in London seeing all the sights and places of interest. The Regents Palace is certainly very central. I will not bore you with our daily doings but will give a short account of our visit to spend a fortnight with Uncle Frank, Mother's eldest brother, and Aunt Mary. As I have already mentioned they had settled in Jersey where many people did the same to avoid the heavy British tax; the tax in Jersey was very low. Aunt Mary was one of the Stevens farming at Gum Tree near Clocolan in the Free State.

We left the Regent Palace, having booked in for our return, for Southampton where we were to embark in the Small Channel Steamer for St. Helier, the Jersey port. The steamer was due to leave at midnight but we embarked and by paying an additional 10/- were given a small two berth cabin. There were a number of passengers but most of them sat on benches on deck or in the lounges and slept as best they could. Many were going over to help with the reaping of either tomatoes or potatoes, the main export to the English market. These crops, the early tomato and early potatoes fetched a good price as they ripened some weeks before the English crops. They also try to beat the Continental crops. How this will affect Jersey and the Common Market which Britain has joined, I don't know. However, that is their trouble.

We were expecting the usual rough passage we had heard so much about but the sea was remarkably calm and early next morning having called at Guernsey we arrived in the Port of St. Helier and there standing on the quayside was dear old Uncle Frank, or Fem as he was called, to meet us with a big smile of welcome. It was good to see him again and Lorna was meeting him for the first time though by the greeting one would have thought he had known her for years. A very fine man who, when he died, quite a wealthy man, left all to his brothers and sisters, but of that later.

We were escorted to the waiting car and introduced to the chauffeur, Hyde-Parker and then driven up to St. Leonards. With a name like Hyde-Parker he probably came from some titled family.

We were met by Aunt Mary, very deaf and having to use an ear trumpet. She had had measles and woke on morning to find she was deaf.

They had a lovely home, a fine three storey building, and we were shown to our room and private bathroom on the second floor. They slept on the first floor. You will hear more about the house and estate later for he had three wills: the House; the Jersey Estate and his South African Estate and I feel that he must have had some trust in me to appoint me Executor of his Estate which I had to deal after the war when I returned from P.O.W. Camp.

The house stood /