

Although we did spend a bit later on, having an extra servant's room, an inside toilet, and an ironing room built on some years later, after the war, we sold it for £5000. Today it is probably worth a lot more. We sold after buying our present home, 10 Brighton Street.

How the previous owners managed to live with all those trees I do not know. They certainly darkened the house. Well, after our hard work we had a well-laid-out garden and what a difference it made and certainly enhanced the value of the property.

We had a very good garden boy too for whom I later got a job with the Union Castle Co. but he asked to keep on his room for which he worked in the garden during the week-end. This arrangement worked very well. As I was now Chief Accountant, it was no longer for me to attend the arrival and departure of our ships and so had my week-ends and holidays free. I was thus able to play a lot of golf or rifle shooting on the local range. I have always been a keen shottist and apart from our Regimental team, I joined the local Rifle Club. The members were very keen and we shot most Saturday afternoons and my golf I played on Sunday mornings, an occasional Saturday and holidays. Apart from an occasional local Bisley when teams and individuals attended from other areas we also visited other centres. How I used to look forward and enjoy either a day on our range or travelling to Grahamstown. On one occasion when we were competing in Grahamstown against the local and three other teams, one of our chaps, Bezuidenhout, had had a heavy night and woke feeling terrible and asked for something to put him right. I had some Alkaseltzer, supposed to be good, which I told him to put into a glass of water as they fizz more than Enos. No, he was in a hurry, this was on the range, so he just swallowed them. My, did he have a rough time with all the fizzing going on in his tummy and he did not stop belching for five minutes. 'Hell man, Geoff, why didn't you warn me?' Anyway, he managed to put up a reasonable score. My average was 100 out of a possible 105 and my best score was 104, which is excellent.

On my next trip to England I took my match rifle and had a couple of shoots at Bisley, the home of rifle shooting, but could do no better than 101 and that brought no prize. There seemed to be about six or seven ranges and about 500 chaps shooting. One or two who I had met when they were out here with the English Shooting team I again met here. I only went to the range twice as it was rather a job getting there. I had to catch a train from Waterloo and then on arrival at Bisley, as the range is about two miles away, take a taxi. The same procedure coming back. Anyway, I am able to say I did, actually, shoot at Bisley.

In order to get promotion in the Regiment I went to Roberts Heights, Voortrekker Hoogte as it is called today, to attend courses for various ranks. The Military College was a very fine place and very well run. These courses lasted three weeks and were very well run and made most interesting. We had excellent quarters, individual huts, and a very large dining room, excellent catering, and nice ante-rooms and usual mess facilities. Apart from lectures we had field exercises and these were also very well run. For instance, we would be driven to an area way out in the country where we were to exercise and here apart from excellent tents, well-furnished with comfortable beds they also had showers. I always thought they made it too cushy, we should have been made to rough it a bit.

It was in 1935 that the Jubilee Celebrations were held on the Jan Smuts grounds when the local Permanent Force, The Kaffrarian Rifles, R.N.V.R., Police, Cadets etc took part in a big parade. The whole parade was drawn up facing the Pavillion, which was packed as were the grounds with the public taking part. The Parade was under the command of Colonel Klerk, after whom the local rifle range is named, the Officer Commanding the Eastern Province Command. This Command has now been transferred to Port Elizabeth.

The Kaffrarian Rifles /