

Good luck". Well now we had to do something about a new commanding Officer. We duly had a meeting and it was decided to ask Col. V.G. Lewis to take on a second term of office as he had been in command just prior to Robertson. The only officer who was not in agreement was Captain George Taylor, a brave chap who had gained a M.M. and D.C.M. in 1917, as he was hoping to be asked to take over. He therefore resigned.

Geddes Page and I were asked to call on V.G., as he was known to us. We had a very good reception and he agreed to take over command again provided that the Defence Department agreed. Well we saw the Eastern Province C.O. and he contacted Defence who agreed to our request.

Geddes Page and I were granted temporary rank of Major. When V.G. took over on the 1st December 1935, I was appointed 2nd in Command; Geddes, being senior to me, could not take over as two I.C. as, living in King Williams Town, he could not attend to the administration work. He would, however, take over as second in command when we went into our annual fortnight camp. This worked very well. I got my substantive rank of Major after qualifying at Roberts Heights on 22nd April 1936. When V.G. retired as O.C. in 1937 Geddes was appointed O.C. with rank of Lt Col. And I was confirmed as 2nd in Command. I enlisted for full time Military Service on the 12th June 1940 when the Regiment was called up for active service. We embarked for the Middle East on the 22nd July 1941. When Geddes was wounded during the battle of Bardia I was given command with the rank of Lieut Colonel. I was taken prisoner at Tobruk and released by the Americans on the 28th March 1945. Released from full Military service 9th July 1945 and transferred to the reserve of Officers with rank of Lt. Col with effect from 11th December 1945. The above is probably not very interesting but serves as a record.

I seem to switch about a lot. I remember when Lorna was overseas with her mother I played a lot of golf with Julies Houzet, Albi van Lingen and Watt, a doctor, on Sunday mornings. Sometimes we got in three rounds by starting at about seven in the morning. We also spent some week-ends at Hamburg fishing. In those days one parked the car on the East London side of the river and was rowed across to the Hotel. Hiring a boat with an outboard engine we had a lot of fun, fishing and graining at night. It was a very comfortable hotel even in those days. Having chipped in again I must now get on with my story after Lorna's return. We had the hose in St. Andrews Road and here my Mother came to live with us having previously lived with other members of the family, Gerald, Madge and Bimbi at times.

Gerald was now the senior District Commissioner, the best they ever had was told me by residents, and later was appointed Government Secretary and Deputy Resident Commissioner and stationed in Mafeking. There is not much to write for a while so I will get on with our next overseas trip. Being due for another trip, Lorna and I decided, having been granted the necessary leave and a free passage to leave towards the end of February 1939 and Lorna very kindly suggested we ask my Mother, of whom she was very fond, and who had not been back to England since she came out as a young woman. She was thrilled at the idea and so I approached the Union-Castle Principals as to whether they would grant me a rebate on her passage. They were most generous and were prepared to charge only a quarter fare on the return First class passage. This at that time was £50 and Gerald and Kissie, Madge's husband, each paid £25. This was for a single berth inside cabin. On hearing of our contemplated trip, a friend of ours, Joyce King asked if she might join us. Joyce was to travel over with us and later when we hired a car she was to join us and share expenses.

Well, we were eventually booked in the old Arundel Castle, a ship which at one time had four funnels, why no one seemed to know. Anyway she was to have two funnels removed. She was a very comfortable old ship.

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