

We eventually arrived at Waterloo Station where there were any number of porters and taxis. Today it is a job to get a porter or a cab. Having got a taxi and loaded up our baggage, and how they get all that stuff on I don't know, we set off for the Regent Palace off Piccadilly where we had booked accommodation and paid a deposit before leaving East London. Yes all that baggage and four passengers is pretty good going, for the cabs do not look very big, they look clumsy.

On the way to the Hotel we crossed Waterloo Bridge and what a thrill to be in London once again. The Hotel I must say is most efficiently run and when we arrived all was ready for they were expecting us. We were shown up to our rooms. Double for Lorna and myself at 15/- and single rooms for Mother and Joyce at 9/- each, that is for bed and breakfast. Today the charges are about six times that amount. Being lunch time we decided to have lunch in the hotel. After lunch and a rest and Lorna having unpacked as she always did, we went down to the Rotunda Court for afternoon tea. This big league of nations room has since been done away with. Here we sat and listened to the talking in about six different languages. For hotels in England cater for all nationalities black, yellow or white. The Rotunda Court was a very popular room. Joyce and Mother were very interested and just sat and listened to the babble while they had their tea. For the evening meal we visited Lyons Corner House a very popular and inexpensive restaurant. At the little Lyons near the Hotel one could get what was called Brunch consisting of Eggs and bacon, sausage, chips and a chop for 1/-. It was a good filling meal and would today cost in the region of 10/-.

Before leaving East London we had decided to hire a car and do a tour of England and Scotland. So, a few days after our arrival, I went to the Lex Garage quite near to the Hotel to enquire the cost of hiring a car. They quoted me £5 a week for a Hillman Car which would seat four comfortably. This was for self drive. This we considered quite cheap as it would cost four of us 25/- a week each. Today the charges are very high and there are all sorts of conditions as to mileage etc.

I then went along to the A.A. and told them where we wanted to go and see and asked them to map out a tour avoiding, where possible, the main and heavily used roads. Being members of the A.A. there is no charge and by the next day it was ready and so Joyce, before leaving for the North, knew where we would be going.

After a few days Joyce left London for her Aunt Rosa in Liverpool where we would pick her up on a given date.

Lorna, Mother and I then spent about a fortnight in London doing a bit of sight-seeing and shopping. We did one or two bus trips round about London visiting various places of interest, The Tower of London to see the Crown Jewels, the Beef-Eaters (standing beside whom we had our photo taken), the famous Crows which are well cared for. We drove through Baker Street where we were told by the courier that 'Here lived Sherlock Holmes'. We did a night trip through many places of interest: China Town where we got a few Chinese eatables and toys and then on to a well known Pub, Dirty Dicks. And what a place it is, full of stuffed cats, spider webs, spiders etc. A proper Witches Den. There were a number of old women gin drinking, Mothers ruin. I suppose people stood them drinks, I don't think these old shabbily dressed old women could tell your fortune, perhaps if you did not stand them a drink. I often wonder if a place like the Windmill has disappeared. The courier I have no doubt gets a rake off and a free drink.

It was a most enjoyable fortnight which I am sure Mother enjoyed. Made her feel young again. Lorna and I thoroughly enjoyed being back in the little town of London.

As Mother had not seen her elder brother, Frank Enraght Mooney, for a number of years we decided to go to the Island of Jersey where he was living alone in the big house, I have mentioned earlier, as Aunt Mary had died a few years earlier, since our last visit.

Uncle Frank /