

How well I remember Princes Street and Edinburgh as I was stationed at Gullane Drome in 1918 instructing pupils in flying. From there being quite close we often visited the City. I remember there were a couple of East Londoners: Douglas Wilson's father and mother of the well known sweet factory and George Davidson who was attached to the Ministry of Munitions under Churchill living in Edinburgh. Davidson was an engineer who was farming near Komgha but went overseas to help in the war effort. The other person was Agnes Wood of East London who was a sister at the main Edinburgh hospital and later travelled back to East London in 1919 in the Balmoral Castle.

We walked up and down Princes Street window shopping and left the next morning but on the way out stopped at the Castle which stands on a prominent hill in the centre of the City. We wanted to see the famous memorial erected to the men, women, horses, mice, canaries etc. that had lost their lives during the war. Mice and canaries were used to detect gas which was being used by both sides. I was rather surprised that the corporal of the Guard of a famous Scottish Regiment gave us permission to go into the building told us that he had been in to see it so we persuaded him to go in with us. One would have thought that the Officer of the Guard would have told them all about it.

Leaving Edinburgh we travelled along a road through very pleasant scenery followed by wooded scenery and overshadowed by the famous Fildons and on to Gallashiels, Jedburgh, Rochester and on to Corbridge having partly followed the old Roman Road which took us through open moorland country. We had now crossed back into England and made for what, on the map, was shown as Scotch Corner. Here we expected to find a town or at least a village but there was nothing. Scotch Corner is the junction of the Great North Road and another road to Middlesbrough, a Port on the East Coast. We did, however, find near the junction a very comfortable private hotel. It is rather interesting to quote from their tariff card:- HIGH BROUGH, Private Hotel on the Great North Road near Scotch Corner North Yorkshire. Distances: Darlington 9 miles (on the Middlesbrough Road) Catterick Bridge to Scotch Corner 3 miles. Bed and Breakfast from 6/6d, packed luncheons, teas, breakfast. Residential terms 6½ guineas per week according to season 6 guineas per week full board. High Brough is ideally situated at the side of a wood on the Great North Road one mile from Scotch Corner. It faces S.S.W. and command an extensive view over the Richmond Hills. The house is very well furnished, centrally heated and has electric light throughout. 'THE HOTEL THAT IS DIFFERENT'.

So that is where we spent the night and I must say we were most comfortable. Next morning, as there was no shop near by our Minister of Supply, Lorna, arranged for a packed luncheon as advertised and most reasonable it was too which we thoroughly enjoyed later by the side of the road.

We now travelled through fairly open country on what we called fast roads passing the 'Boot and Shoe' inn and the 'Brotherton Fox' Hotel to Doncaster having pleasant scenery.

It was in Doncaster, a town noted for its many breweries, that I was stationed for a short while in 1917 with the R.F.C. It was here that I first saw the Morris Farman Machine. We carried on passing another Inn, the 'White Post'. They certainly do have some queerly named hotels and inns. On to Nottingham in a densely populated area. Leaving Nottingham the scenery is only moderate on to Long Eaton where we turned off our scheduled route to Derby to call on Edward Laurie, Lorna's cousin, who was with an engineering firm. We met Edward and he took us a short distance to a Guest House where he was staying and here we spent the night. It was very nice meeting him again and we were to meet him again after the war when Lorna and I were travelling around in the old de Soto car in 1950, which I mention later, at a place called Sea Houses near Farn Islands.

We now carried /