

on the right road. The one way street was the one just behind South Africa House. This policeman the directed us to the way to go and we soon arrived at the Regent Palace Hotel. After getting our baggage out I took the car to the garage, Lex's, in the next street and here we garaged the car until 5<sup>th</sup> May. On the Monday we went along to the tailor's to see how they were getting on with our order. For me they were to make a suit at 16 guineas, a sports coat, and an overcoat of lightweight raglan. Lorna was to have a costume and coat (a knockabout coat really) which was inexpensive. We were very disappointed as all they had done was my overcoat made of raglan which was very loose, of course, and my sports coat which they (I think) was made from the same measurements as the coat. It would have fitted a man twice my size. They had double stitching around the collar; the sleeves were two inches too short and the length three inches too long. Lorna's coat and costume were not ready and we said if the alterations were not satisfactory we would not accept the goods. We had to eventually try these garments on at Southampton before embarking and as they were most unsatisfactory, with which the local agent agreed we had our deposit refunded.

Lorna now takes up the story: And quite rightly says she upset with the tailors who upset all our arrangements and ruined the day. We then decided to have a hurried supper and catch the number 19 bus to Sadlers Wells where we arrived at about a quarter to six and after our hasty meal went into the Opera House. We saw the of rather Die Fliedermaus which was good, light and amusing with wonderful singing and a little ballet. The orchestra has such a leading part in these productions. It was exceptionally good and the conductor; Charles Mackerras (I think is the name) is such a young man. I find that after an evening at the opera I do sleep so well as the music goes round and round in my head. I bought a present for Felicity's twenty first. She is Geoff's youngest sister's daughter so one feels it a duty for the 21<sup>st</sup>.

We are having to be very careful about money just now as we have been fairly free but it has been worth it, we find now we have to skimp a bit. For Mother's birthday, that is Geoff's mother, I have bought a bed jacket for her birthday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. There were some beautiful ones for £8 but we could not afford that amount. With the £5 Nan gave me to spend for her I have bought a very nice jersey from Derry and Toms and am now looking forward to wearing it a few times to avoid paying duty on the article. This is the first time during these holidays that we have stopped in Kensington and have found it a very good shopping centre. We scouted round for awhile looking in at the shop windows and admiring the nylon Petties and nighties. They are divine but I decided that I could do without them and make do with my old ones.

We finally went to Bourne and Hollingworths for lunch and then returned to the hotel in time to meet Aunt Cissie who we had asked to tea. Then we talked hard as she wanted to hear all about her son Edward and his family with whom we had spent a few days at Sea Houses and also of her daughter, Mary Lintott, of Ipswich.

We had a bumper tea as we were doing without supper on account of the Ballet we were going to see. It is rather nice as the shows starting early which means one gets back to the hotel about 10-30 or eleven. We took the tube to Covent Garden and then walked along to the Opera House. As we had booked by post we had to pay 15/6d each but it was well worth it. We had good seats and could see beautifully and enjoyed mingling with the society folk as if we belonged. Again people were dressed in all manner of clothes, from sports wear to evening dress. During the interval coffee was served on trays for your lap and was very well served and nicely done. We enjoyed it and that may have been because we were feeling extra empty having done without supper.

During the second interval we walked out to have a smoke and bumping into a sweet girl we decided to go the whole hog and buy a half pound of chocolates for 2/4d but our coupons were useless as they were stamped 12/- and the 12/- had ended on Sunday. But to our

great delight/