



# Aberdeen & Commonwealth Line

Managers:  
GEO. THOMPSON & CO LIMITED,  
34, LEADENHALL STREET,  
LONDON, E. C. 3.  
AND  
2, AUSTRALIA HOUSE,  
STRAND, LONDON, W. C. 2.

ONE CLASS SERVICE 15  
— BETWEEN —  
ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA  
via Suez Canal and Colombo.

On board S.S. Largs Bay, Jan 24<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mother.

We did have an exciting time yesterday, started off famously from Waterloo, when we got to Eastleigh we all turned out, & got into motor busses & were taken to some gigantic canteens belonging to the White Star line, after standing about for a bit wondering what was going to happen next, a man announced that the Largs Bay had been fog bound on her way from Tilbury, but they hoped to get us aboard by 6. ~~PM~~ AM (this was soon after 11 P.M.) so we settled down as best we could for the day. in one large shed were tables, chairs & lots of papers & magazines. Two others were laid for meals. they gave us soup, boiled beef & vegs & rice pudding, & a peculiar brown liquid in a mug, called coffee. after this lunch they told us there was a free cinema show for any who liked to visit it. Uncle J & I preferred to get a quiet corner & read. Tea was at 6. sausages, bread & butter & jam & tea (not too bad.) after tea they told us the ship could not get in before 9.30. so they had sent along a dance band to keep us amused. it certainly was a splendid band, but the people were getting very weary & only a few danced. I must say the passengers were splendid treated it as a joke & made the best of it without any fuss. at 9.30 busses began to arrive to take the people down to the docks. when we arrived there the boat was 'nt<sup>sic</sup> up to her berth. another long wait. then queuing up for passport & ticket inspection & we got on board, a little after midnight!! I just fell into my bunk & slept. I couldnt sleep well at Blythwood Road. those bally clocks

[ ₹ ]

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After this lunch they told us there was a free cinema show for any who liked to visit it. Uncle J & I preferred<sup>sic</sup> to get a quiet corner & read. Tea was at 5. sausages, bread & butter & jam & tea. (not too bad.) After tea they told us the ship could not get in before 9.30. so they had sent along a dance band to keep us amused. it certainly was a splendid band, but the people were getting very weary & only a few danced. I must say the passengers were splendid treated it as a joke & made the best of it without any fuss.

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woke me every hour - so you can guess I was tired. very cumfy  
bunk. one other girl in the cabin. she is charming. she is going out  
to her husband in Cairo. she has a friend in another cabin who  
is going to Malta & I think she may move into our cabin. so  
I am quite all right. luggage & everything arrived.

It is a glorious morning. we are out of sight of land. it is not nearly  
as cold on the sea as it was on land.

Later have just seen Uncle J. he has a nice man as cabin mate which  
is a great relief to him. we have just made a tour of the ship.  
I saw my stewardess & she seems a very nice woman so I am looking  
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ON BOARD S.S. *Largs Bay*. Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 9.45 AM

We are through the bay but I can't say just where we are until 12 o'clock, when our position is marked on the chart. I cannot see any coast line, but the gulls are following our course, so we cannot be far off land. Yesterday it was very cold on deck, there was a strong East wind blowing & a nice long swell. I dined on roast pork with sage & onion stuffing & plum pudding with sweet sauce & had an excellent appetite for braised steak for tea. Supper is just dry biscuits & cheese. The food is quite good & I am ready for every meal. My cabin is excellent, only two of us in space for four, so we can spread our belongings on the empty bunks. Uncle Jim is very pleased with his cabin companion. (another yachting enthusiast) but he finds himself very cramped for space, so on the whole I am better off. The library is very good, all new books. I have just finished Locke's latest, "Joshua's Vision". It is distinctly warmer this morning, if the sun comes out it will be quite hot out of the wind. I am looking forward to getting through Gib. There is a barber's shop on board that ~~buy~~ sells everything, even teapots & cups so people can make their own tea any time they like, they can get boiling water from the galley. There is a big tank of drinking water handy. I think there is to be a meeting this evening to get up some sorts of entertainments. I am writing this in the reading room which has a big notice silence. There is a Scotchwoman & two others who will discuss all

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I am writing this in the reading room which has a big notice silence, & there is a Scotchwoman & two others who will discuss all

their affairs in high voices & the most awful accent.  
There are all sorts of people on board but ~~that~~ take them  
all round they are quite nice orderly people. Those who have  
assisted passages are kept together & have their meals after the  
other passengers. but otherwise they have the use of all the public  
rooms etc. All ready the people are forming little sets  
according to their inclinations & tastes. There is a big social hall  
where they play games & have sing songs. several of the boys have  
brought violins, banjo's etc & they play popular songs quite  
well. when I get sick of it I escape with my book to the  
reading room. I think this is all the news I have at  
present. so I will go for my constitutional round the deck.

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ON BOARD S.S. Largs Bay. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>  
1.30. AM.

We passed Gib this morning at 10.15. It is a perfectly wonderful day. glorious hot sunshine. as we passed the signal station on the Rock we saw them flashing a message to us. there were several warships but we were too far out to see more than their outlines.

There was a cinema show on board last night, but I did not go as it was during library hours & I wanted to change a book, so I went & soaked in a hot sea bath instead.

I am shedding winter clothing bit by bit. I am glad to leave off my thick winter coat, but I was glad of it the first two days. I am all ready loosing count of the days. There is a rumour that we reach Port Said 4 o'clock in the morning. poor Uncle Jimmie! He's only used to pleasure cruises. now he is having a taste of real travelling. he is being splendid. making the best of all the disadvantages, such as cramped quarters, early breakfast etc he says he has thoroughly enjoyed his morning on deck the last two days. it is nice to be able to wander about all over the boat. I shall probably have a sun bath this afternoon. in a sheltered spot it is as warm as our dell on a summers afternoon. I shall think of you sitting round the studio fire

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**ON BOARD S.S. Largs Bay. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> [January 1929**  
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we have had a wonderful passage so far. just enough motion to make you realize you are on the sea, but not sufficient to be inconvenient. I have seen a few people looking rather green. & a good many have kept their cabins. I believe we are due to arrive at Malta on Wednesday. & all letters posted on board 3 miles from shore can go with English stamps.

I had roast pork again today with a lovely piece of crackling. The other dish was roast mutton with caper sauce. There is a choice of 2 dishes at mid-day dinner, & 3 at tea. We have not had Uncle Jimmie's famous steak & onions yet.

Saw one porpoise today. also lots of small gulls. It's fun to watch them all swoop down when they hear a splash. I wonder if you have your new glasses fitted yet. I do hope you will find them a help when you are shopping. Could you post me a copy of overseas Daily Mirror or Sketch.

W

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