

## **Short autobiography of Eileen Lillias Mackarness née Godfrey 1888-1984**

### **Written on the occasion of the 'Noughts Party' when she was 90**

Born in Malton **May 30<sup>th</sup> 1888** – eldest daughter of Dr. F W G Godfrey and Mabel (née Hartley)

Educated Home (Scarborough) and Queen Margaret's School

**1905** – Frankfurt – studying violin and German

**1907-1912** Home which included visit to Melbourne with my father – and engagement to CGM Mackarness, 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Archdeacon CC Mackarness and Grace (née Milford)

**1912** – Cuth left for India to join Indian Forestry Service Assam

**1913** – I trained at the Norland Institute in London

**1914** – C home. Sick leave after Enteric. Autumn returned Assam.

**1915** – C cabled me after Scarborough Bombardment. Late January I sailed to Calcutta – arrived March 4<sup>th</sup>. Hosts Archdeacon and Mrs Firminger. Married March 5<sup>th</sup> by the Archdeacon, Parish Church. Mrs F 'gave me away'. Best man Col. Coppinger (friend of Cuth's). Two nights in Great Eastern Hotel, Calcutta, then to Assam by train and steamer. Assam – station Sibsagar – settling in Forest Officer's Bungalow. Touring with C by marching and elephant riding.

Autumn – C received permission to 'join up'. Rawalpindi – C for training with Green Howards.

**1916** – Bannu. NWF [North West Frontier?]. C attached 25<sup>th</sup> Punjabis. I to Murree for Hot Weather – Richard born August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn – R and I joined C recruiting in Amritsar.

**1917** - Jullundar. C still recruiting – applied for active service. Result – drafted to Rajah of Alloars Service Troops.

Serving in Palestine – I to Dalhousie for Hot Weather.

Sharing bungalow with 2 friends.

Spanish flu raging – all – plus our children were victims – 3 servants died – R and I back to Jullundar.

**1918** – To Dalhousie again – Hot Weather. Armistice signed – wives allowed free passages to join husbands serving in Palestine.

I applied and received orders to proceed to Bombay (from Jullundar) to sail for Cairo. R and I – 2 nights and 2 days journey – no ayah – sailed from Bombay on troopship – disembarked Ismailia – by train to Cairo where Cuth met us – He on sick leave from Jerusalem – 3 weeks later C ordered back to India.

**1919** I Home. C's plan to rejoin me that summer not possible. I with my parents (Scarborough). Peter born August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**1920** March – C Home on leave – He back to Assam in Autumn. Passages impossible for me and sons.

**1921** I with R and P and English Nannie sailed in Jan to join Cuth in Jorhat (Assam). He at last an IFS officer again.

**1924** Whole family Home via Burma and Capetown (Canal closed). Stayed in Cape Town with Guy and Nancy and their John. On Home for C's leave. Sons had to be left. Plans had to be considered for them during our periods abroad. Accepted Margot Booker's wonderful offer to have them with her family of five at Elmbridge. Richard to Packwood. Peter 1<sup>st</sup> lessons with Eleanor (Margot teaching). November - C returned to Assam, Station Jorhat.

**1925** January – I rejoined him, having stayed at Home for Richard's 1<sup>st</sup> holiday.

**1927** January – I Home alone. Saw Peter to Etton Rectory School. Returned Assam that autumn.

**1930** – Both on leave. Richard to Lancing. C tried out HSG (Home Service Association) re. possible retirement. (No success.) Peter to Bradfield 1933 – 4<sup>th</sup> scholarship.

**1933** – I Home on short leave after opeation.

**1936** – Both Home on leave. Bought Tas Combe [house in Eastbourne]. Again considering retiring. Assam Govt cabled offering C post as Conservator – accepted. Both returned Shillong HQ.

**1937** – I Home alone. Peter left Bradfield.

**1938** January – I returned to to Shillong. Peter with me. Richard came out to join us that Hot weather. Peter Home. R to temp.?Art job in Bombay then Home.

**1939** War declared. Peter called up – Richard applied Air Force – ordered to complete medical training. Served in India – Home on sick leave.

**1942** C awarded CIE. I Hon. Secretary WVS Shillong for 52 Working Parties. Awarded KJH [Kaiser i Hind medal] 1944.

**1948** C retired from IFS. Home via Cape Town. Dutch ship – stripped for war service – landed Liverpool. Home for 'Good'. Settled at Tas Combe. C joined Home Guard, I Willingdon WI and WVS. Peter and Torla married September 1943, Richard and Margie May 1947. Both C's and my mother died 1944. All happy and well until 1960.

**1960** Start of C's illness – we moved to flat in Eastbourne.

**1962** – We moved to flat, Petersfield (2 Winchester House) May 8<sup>th</sup>. Cuth died June 13<sup>th</sup>. I stayed on Winchester House.

**1974** I moved to 1 Albany Chambers, High Street – opposite Peter's office.

**1978** My 90<sup>th</sup> birthday May 30<sup>th</sup>. July 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> Peter and Torla gave a marvellous 'Noughts' party intheir garden – for Mackarness and Godfrey (represented by my sister Elma Foster and family). Torla planned and arranged this beautiful book, a vivid and lasting memory of it all.

Having achieved my 90<sup>th</sup> I now sit back with all happiness surrounded by my 2 beloved families, Peter's here in Petersfield and Richard's in Longparish. For what more could I wish?

Eileen Mackarness