



s.s. Kenya Castle

February 1952 – March 1967

I LEFT *Athlone Castle* on 1st February 1952 after ten voyages on the Cape run and decided to go down to the Pool in Southampton to see what was going. At the counter an official took one look at my discharge book and said "Union-Castle I see. How would you like to go to Belfast this evening to pick up a brand new ship?" That was all he needed to say to me. "Yes", I said.

Forms were filled in, a warrant was issued and I was told to be at Southampton Central at 3.0 p.m. Hurried last-minute packing and off I set for the station where I found there were about twenty-four people going over to join the ship.

We were met on arrival at Belfast by a Union-Castle representative, taken to lodgings ashore and instructed to report to the ship by 8.0 a.m. the following morning. A look round Belfast in the afternoon, then early to bed for me. I couldn't sleep, though, as the excitement of joining the new ship was too much for me. A call at 6.0 a.m., a good Irish breakfast and away we went in our working gear. The ride

along the cobbled roads past the Harland & Wolff shipyards was a bumpy one. Then, from the top deck of the bus, we saw first the red and black funnel. Round a bend in the road and there she was—the s.s. *Kenya Castle*. The beautiful lavender hull and graceful lines made a perfect picture against the background of an early morning Belfast mist.

What a sight! Little did I know that I should be spending a great portion of my life working on the ship and that she would, as time went by, become a part of me. Dare I go up the gangway? My heart was racing as I put my foot on the bottom step.

A. GORING, *First Assistant Cook*

The smell of newness everywhere, the hustle and bustle of workmen hurrying to and fro making last-minute adjustments to fittings and touching up the paintwork; this was how we found things as we went aboard. Even before we ticked on with the Second Steward we could not resist having a look round the ship; the wonderful public rooms,