

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

(Mary reminds of those days so long ago)



When Cosmo Haskard Came to Dinner

With Reg then OC Police we were in Karonga in 1959 when Cosmo Haskard, the Provincial Commissioner, and his wife, Phillada, were visiting the area. Reg took it upon himself to invite them to dinner and they accepted – truly a special occasion for us. With my help Handwatch, our ‘Houseboy’ and Ronald, would prepare the meal and serve at table. I would have to buy all the ingredients at the local market or local store and find all necessary for the full makings of the dinner.

So, that evening I remember that I had found sufficient for the menu having Avocado for the starter and piri-piri chicken for main course. The dessert to follow would have been one of our favourites - lemon souffle, always called the “No 1 Pudding”.



Alan Wynn was staying with us at the time, he was a Police

Officer from the Met on secondment. We had also invited the DC, Gordon Landreth, the ADC Bob Owtram and their wives who we knew well.

Handwatch always set the table beautifully when there were guests. He used to decorate it with flowers and had learnt the art of folding the napkins into the shape of a bird using a flower petal for the beak. It all looked so lovely. I can remember Reg being called to the Kitchen to perform some culinary feat to the chicken, the piri-piri sauce having been prepared well ahead of the event. There was wine with the meal plus coffee and liqueurs to follow.

I wore a long loose dress for the evening, Karonga was on the lakeshore and very hot and inundated with mosquitoes.



Fortunately, Reg proved to be a wonderful Host. All had gone very well. Phillada stripped her chicken to the bone. Everyone praised the cook and we were both thanked for a wonderful evening.

So, looking back, we can deem the evening a great success. Cosmo Haskard was a gentleman of some standing and it is not surprising that he went on to achieve so much in his long life.

Mary Brill

