

## Mary Brill - Top 'brass' on the road in Zomba



A KAR Officer was on his way, for some reason in considerable haste, to collect equipment in his Land Rover and pulling a heavily loaded trailer. He was driving down the hill through Zomba towards the Mulunguzi bridge and just about as he got to the bridge there, coming towards him, was a fine Rolls Royce car carrying the Governor of Nyasaland, Sir Glyn Smallwood Jones CCMG MBE, plus a full motor-cycle escort on their way to open a new session of the Legislative Council. The KAR officer braked hard

as soon as he saw this which unfortunately caused the vehicle and trailer to jackknife and in so doing only succeeded in scattering the police outriders into the deep roadside ditch. They all lay there moaning apparently with the m/cycle wheels spinning but fortunately no-one was badly hurt.



His Excellency was badly shaken and so was his driver. However, he went on to make the Legislative building (below right) and carried out his formal duties albeit with a greatly depleted and shattered looking escort!

I know only of this because my husband Reg (below left) was driving the Rolls and Mike Bowery (below centre) was one of the motor-cyclists.



**Mary Brill**

November 2019

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## Alison McLennan - A Third Class ride is better than a First Class Walk!



In his October Nypol address our Main Man, Ken, sought our memories of transport and travel in the Nyasaland as we knew it. This certainly took me back to recall all those years ago of our time in Blantyre. My Dad (*Fred Tomkins*) bought a Riley for the two and half years we there and this we thought was very special. It was sort of a two tone green in colour as I remember with beautiful leather seats and a polished wood dashboard, it smelt special-funny - isn't it a fact just how the smell of things can bring back so many memories.

Dad also purchased a Thames Combi Van so we could go camping at the lake. I remember when he first brought it home, he was so excited and we all jumped in expecting to see some modern camper van with with lots of beds and a kitchen etc. etc.

However to our disappointment it had nothing like that at all in it. It was very basic with just a few seats and so it was hard for us to imagine our idyllic weekends away in this vehicle.



But to be fair to Dad, he was always a dreamer, and he set about converting this van to an awesome little camper complete with beds and a little kitchen, he even put an extended bed on the roof rack with a pull over tarp (that's where our House Boy Kambani was to sleep, as he was part of our family and came everywhere with us).

Thus our adventures continued and I have to say we had many awesome trips and adventures in this little Thames Van, lovely outings to the lake among them - it certainly did us proud.

***Alison McLennan***  
*November 2019*

