

Ernest and Hilda Meredith of Llandudno North Wales married 28th Sept 1938 on the day Neville Chamberlain had returned from Germany showing how he had secured 'Peace in our time'.

This was the signal that the happy couple could start their intended honeymoon to CANADA + the U.S.A aboard the ATHENIA.

Ernest Meredith, unknown to his new bride, kept a diary of the voyage and their journey. This diary was discovered by his wife after his death in 1996.

The diary shows that the ATHENIA was moored mid stream in the River Mersey and that they boarded the ship by tender.

The ship sailed at 4PM 1st Oct. 1938

They appear to be the only British passengers on board the rest are Canadians & Americans returning home because of the war scare.

The voyage was dogged, after the first day by bad weather. Winds up to 100 M.P.H. being recorded, but fortunately only for a short time. They witnessed waves as high as the top deck "a truly wonderful sight." He also ~~was~~ watched the propellers keeping out of the sea. The bad weather accounted for the small daily mileage recorded. Scheduled to complete 300 - 350 miles per day and only managing 220 - 260 1298 miles in 5 days. "Not half way and at sea for 5 days"

Entertainment on board consisted of dances, film shows, bingo, deck tennis shuffleboard a gym house and dog racing (No Luck) Dancing had to stop at midnight even at sea the band had to obey union rules. The food and service on board was excellent, breakfast, lunch, dinner and supper was provided.

Land was sighted on Saturday 8th Oct and they passed the Embress of Canada bound for hivespool.

The ATHENIA stopped at Quebec on 10th Oct. before continuing to Montreal via the St Lawrence sea way.

They continued their journey from Montreal by train to Toronto, Niagara Falls to New York

They returned to England on the Queen Mary. The captain of the Queen Mary left New York without the use of tugs, the tugboat men were on strike, quite a feat of seamanship. The return voyage was a lot quicker smoother and more luxurious than their outward voyage. They arrived home in Blandford on 25th Oct