

A Gentleman and a Rascal



Autobiography
by
Brian Buzzard

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CHAPTER 24

My thoughts on my life and what I have seen

Front Cover: I wish to thank artist Laura Cole for her kind permission to use the second painting from the triptych **Kimberley Grasses**.

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My thoughts on my life and what I have seen

During my lifetime I have seen more changes and inventions in this world, since 1915, than have occurred in the previous one thousand, nine hundred and fifteen years. The steam engine had been invented as the only source of power, then along came the motor car, aeroplane, tractor, electric light and power, the gramophone before the wireless, and the telephone which was a wonder to me in my youth. Then refrigeration arrived, huge battleships and armaments, the atom bomb, the hydrogen bomb and the Space Age with a man walking on the moon, typewriters and computers, and television. Agriculture, mining, manufacturing, agricultural herbicides, artificial insemination of animals, cloning of plants and animals, the wonderful advances in operations, transplants, medicines and learning improved more in this century than all the previous one thousand, nine hundred years. What next?

With all our inventions and improvements, what has it brought us? A world which cannot today conquer the ill-feeling among nations, tribes and countries such as Bosnia, the Russian states and Zaire, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon. Law and order is out of control, and the families which stay and pray together have disappeared to a large degree. When once we were governed by Statesmen, today there are only politicians who think more of the vote than of principle, and of the welfare of the community. I feel that I have lived during the best years of justice, of not being afraid to do my own thing, and of being safe from car thieves, house burglars, drug runners, rapists, paedophiles, and having the freedom to go out at night. I can only hope for the best, but cannot see any improvement during the short time I am going to be here. The law which does not allow parents to pull their children into line, should be abolished and the sanctity of the home preserved.

Most people are asked if they would like to come back and live their life over again. The answer to that question for me is easy, emphatically, no. Like anyone else I had my share of sorrow, worry, regret and near despair, probably more than most. But amongst the bad times were the wonderful, happy times to compensate. Our life on this earth is the real thing, not a training run to get ready for the match. It is the only chance we get to make our way in this world. Forget about dreaming about what you would have or should have done, that is gone. Think about your future by all means, but don't just think; do it, and you will find that this earth can give you rewards and make the going easier for us all.

I must admit that I was a little bit wild and bordering on a rascal as a youth until I married and settled down to responsibility, as most others do. I was never a real rascal as Scotty Allen called me when I pinched the turkey. I have never done a dishonest act intentionally, and was never a rascal in the true sense of the word, only full of life. I had a mischievous streak, a larrikin if you like, but never a rascal. I have never been in conflict with the law and pride myself on a very high reputation in business dealings and ethics.

My family connections from my grandparents to my grandchildren have meant the world to me, and have been my strength to overcome the down sides of my life. I also owe a lot to the many true friends which I have made. I dispute the saying, "You can count true friends on the fingers of one hand" because I have been fortunate to have had many more, many of whom are still alive and many who have passed on.

I believe in Christianity, regardless of Sect, and firmly believe in the life hereafter. I have never been a really religious man, but have practiced my religion all my life. I still do and am proud of it. I think that the best part of the Lord's Prayer is when we recite, "For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever..." In my day the prayer was recited without it and how I remember it, but I understand has been changed since.

This world can be a wonderful place and is only as you make it yourself. If you go astray now and again, as we all do, remember that there is great forgiveness in God and man, and that after reparation you are accepted back into society again. It is entirely up to the individual what you want to make of your life, because after the age of reason you have your own free will, and the knowledge to know right from wrong. My grandmother had a saying which she always quoted to us and I have never forgotten. It has come in very handy to me in my despondent moments. "Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone."

I can never say enough to thank my family and friends for all that I have been given, but do so now publicly before I go to join a lot of them again.