

16.-18. september 1938

FAKTA

Dato:
16.-18. september 1938

Sidetæl:
p. 67-72

Dagbogens placering:
SMK

Ophavsperson/nøgleperson:
Ernest Mancoba

Generelle kommentarer:
Regler for transkription:
Stavefejl bevares, efterfulgt af
korrektion som [sic: korrekt
stavemåde]
Nødvendige indsættelser af
manglende tegnsætning tilføjet som
[.]
Nødvendig opdeling af afsnit som [/P]
Utydelige ord angivet med [illegible]
Overstreget bogstaver og ord ikke
transskriberet
Fulde navn på nævnte person
[Fornavn + Efternavn] translated
2025-02-06

Omtalte personer:
T. C. Mehta

RESUMÉ

Den 2. september 1938 gik Ernest Mancoba ombord på et skib, der sejlede fra Cape Town, Sydafrika, til Southampton, Storbritannien. Det ankom den 19. september 1938. Mancoba førte en rejsejournal om rejsen.translated 2025-02-06

TRANSSKRIFTION

[Sept 16]

// We get up + breakfast – then I go up to find the 3 with the man from Lyon. He reads for me from the French book brought by Abr [Abraham] – a fine fellow – He orders drinks [.] I take lager & Naidoo lemonade & beer.

The South Africans gaze & gaze — We talk on & ignore — I drink with a vengeance as colour restrictions in SA. SV declines offer of drink & says he takes wine once a month to disappointment of Frenchman [.] Bell for lunch – we go down – After lunch we go to Naidoo Cabin & have wine given by Madeira man - It's 20 years old – we call him [illegible].

Cards afterwards [,] Casino – The Lyon man suggests walk round the deck but Naidoo & co [sic: company] back out & leave him to me – awkward – I make feeble gestures with my hands – Mehtu [sic: T.C. Mehta] comes [,] I am glad [.] Then he goes

We go down again & I ask Naidoo why he tries to show me off in a bad light to the man – cigarettes + blunder at Casino – He becomes angry & Mehtu [Mehta] comes to my help – I call him a Nazi – SV tries to make peace – They go out & we meet again.

We play ping pong + two white boys rush down & pull up nets & order us off – We play on & Man comes & tells them off & Mehtu cut up badly & come to cabin and wants to [illegible] if the boy was wrong – I say a small nazi - deserved to be kicked.

[note in margin:] Quinn says we shd [sic: should] go SA, wd [sic: would] object but this is an English boat

Concert in the evening & Mehtu [Mehta] & I go - Atmosphere tense — My little friend whiteman fetches Watson — a huge black form — the dark [illegible] gets up — Ships orchestra, then the “local talent” — woman sings two negro & I wonder why she sings these songs & what these hypocritical SA are thinking — One pts [sic: points] at me & nudges his friend — The old women stare like images in stone — The place seems to be full of them — The crooner sings & is encored [.] classical dancing they

call it [,] but flat short costume [,] I wonder what these Mrs [illegible] are thinking of the natives seeing a white woman indecently dressed making a display before natives — We go out before the Community singing — I don't clap — In the Smoking room, we take lager + Lemonade — We go downstairs & cabin — N arrives & stands at landing watching the whites go past. He does odds things — I hear him tell a man that he is going to the USA etc. He laughs hysterically at nothing — sleep —

[Sept. 17]

// Before breakfast Mehtu [sic: T.C. Mehta] tells me Naidoo unhappy about concert — I meet them and they say why — I tell them that I did anything that I wished to do when I felt like it. We part company & sit with Mehtu [Mehta] — on deck looking at ships on the horizon — A girl comes & sunbathes a yd [sic: yard] in front of us & I look at the old women [,] they are horrified and Mehta says he shd [sic: should] scramble for it but I stop him & we sit — She does not seem to care about our nearness — Chief Syneer tells us a party will be going down 10 ocl [sic: o'clock] [illegible] begins — We stand up, after [illegible] & go to cabin — Mehtu [Mehta] is amused + he laughs —

[note in margin:] Chief Engineer tells us a party will be going down at 10 ocl [sic: o'clock] begins

We go down to the engines & it is not as horrible as I feared — Abr [Abraham] is afraid & returns — Naidoo is irritable & when I ask the \$ pd [sic: paid] out about a guide [,] is irritated & says why shd [sic: should] not I do it — We go down & Machine-man foreman shows us round — Abr [Abraham] cannot stand the heat — so returns — I, tennis deck, Mehtu says he is happy he met me — lunch

Late in after noon — Mehtu [Mehta] comes with autograph of Stoker-wrestler, welter weight champ [sic: champion] of Maccas. I don't see the French-man — We talk [,] Mehta and I [,] and after supper we walk the deck [,] exciting to think in another day we shall be in England — We go down to Mehta's cabin and order Lager & Orangade [sic: Orangeade] — 3 rest come in & Mehta wants to stand them a drink [,] DN refuses & he looks unhappy [,] They go out and I find them in our cabin with N — I undress before them & sleep. "You are naked and hurt my feelings" — futile, VS. I say I am the only man on board with feelings.

[Sept 18]

// Morning [,] pack up & go to upper deck [,] There is the bustle people

going to & fro [...] Anticipation great [...] we want to see the first sight of England — We sit all day and I see the naked girl dressed up & walking the deck with her old mother (as Mehta told me) I like her for her courage but I think again [...] she must have been badly brought up for a South African girl. I remember the girl I once asked to direct me to some street where I wanted to deliver a parcel — She recoiled from me and behaved in a regular South African manner — I was embarrassed — but not surprised

After dinner we see the Islands of the French coast, at first I thought it was the French coast and was excited, but afterwards I learn it is the island

Late in the evening we sight the coast of England [...] The country that has had such an interesting history — I think of the ship money which prompted the Great Revolution against the Kingship of Eng. [sic: England] & when the Kingship of England began its descending of power —

OVERSÆTTELSE

[Sept 16]

// Vi står op + morgenmad — så går jeg op for at finde de tre med manden fra Lyon. Han læser for mig fra den franske bog, som Abr [Abraham] bragte — en fin fyr — Han bestiller drinks. Jeg tager lager & Naidoo lemonade & øl.

De sydafrikanske mænd stirrer & stirrer — Vi taler videre & ignorerer — Jeg drikker med voldsomhed på grund af farvebegrænsningerne i SA. SV afslår tilbud om drink & siger, at han kun drikker vin en gang om måneden, til franskmandens skuffelse. Klokkeren ringer til frokost — vi går ned — Efter frokost går vi til Naidoo Cabin & får vin givet af Madeira manden — Den er 20 år gammel — vi kalder ham [ulæselig].

Spil kort bagefter [...] Casino — Manden fra Lyon foreslår en gåtur rundt på dækket, men Naidoo & co [sic: selskab] trækker sig tilbage & lader ham være med mig — akavet — Jeg laver svage gestusser med mine hænder — Mehtu kommer [...] jeg er glad [...] Så går han

Vi går ned igen & jeg spørger Naidoo, hvorfor han prøver at vise mig i et dårligt lys over for manden — cigaretter + klodsethed i Casino — Han bliver vred & Mehtu kommer mig til hjælp — Jeg kalder ham en nazist — SV prøver at skabe fred — De går ud & vi mødes igen.

Vi spiller bordtennis + to hvide drenge kommer løbende ned & trækker nettene op & beder os om at gå væk — Vi spiller videre & manden kommer

& siger dem imod & Mehtu bliver meget vred & kommer til kabinen og vil [ulæselig] hvis drengen var forkert – Jeg siger, at en lille nazist - fortjente at blive sparket.

[note i margin:] Quinn siger, at vi skulle gå SA, ville [sic: ville] protestere, men dette er en engelsk båd

Koncert om aftenen & Mehtu & jeg går - Atmosfæren er anspændt — Min lille ven, hvid mand, henter Watson — en kæmpe sort skikkelse — den mørke [ulæselig] rejser sig — Skibets orkester, så "lokalt talent" — kvinden synger to negro & jeg undrer mig over, hvorfor hun synger disse sange & hvad disse hykleriske SA tænker — En peger på mig & giver sin ven et stik — De gamle kvinder stirrer som billeder i sten — Stedet synes at være fyldt med dem — Crooneren synger & bliver bisat [...] klassisk dans kalder de det [...] men flad kort kostume [...] Jeg undrer mig over, hvad disse fruer [ulæselig] tænker om de indfødte, når de ser en hvid kvinde uanstændigt klædt lave et show foran de indfødte — Vi går ud før Community synger — Jeg klapper ikke — I rygerummet tager vi lager + Lemonade — Vi går ned til kabinen — N kommer & står ved landing og ser de hvide gå forbi. Han gør underlige ting — Jeg hører ham fortælle en mand, at han skal til USA osv. Han griner hysterisk over ingenting — søvn —

[Sept. 17]

// Før morgenmad fortæller Mehtu mig, at Naidoo er utilfreds med koncerten — Jeg møder dem, og de siger hvorfor — Jeg fortæller dem, at jeg gjorde alt, hvad jeg ønskede at gøre, når jeg havde lyst. Vi skilles & sidder med Mehtu — på dækket og ser på skibene på horisonten — En pige kommer & solbader en yd [sic: yard] foran os, og jeg ser på de gamle kvinder [...] de er forfærdede, og Mehtu siger, at han skulle kæmpe for det, men jeg stopper ham, og vi sidder — Hun ser ikke ud til at bekymre sig om vores nærhed — Chief Syneer fortæller os, at en fest vil gå ned kl. 10 o'clock [ulæselig] begynder — Vi rejser os, efter [ulæselig] & går til kabinen — Mehtu er underholdt + han griner —

[note i margin:] Chief Engineer fortæller os, at en fest vil gå ned kl. 10 o'clock begynder

Vi går ned til motorerne, og det er ikke så forfærdeligt, som jeg frygtede — Abr [Abraham] er bange & vender tilbage — Naidoo er irritabel, og når jeg spørger om \$ pd [sic: betalt] ud om en guide [...] bliver han irriteret & siger, hvorfor skulle jeg ikke gøre det — Vi går ned, og maskinmandens formand viser os rundt — Abr [Abraham] kan ikke holde varmen — så vender tilbage — Jeg, tennisdæk, Mehtu siger, at han er glad for, at han mødte mig —

frokost

Sent på eftermiddagen – Mehtu kommer med autografen fra Stoker-wrestler, welterweight champ [sic: mester] af Maccas. Jeg ser ikke franskmanden – Vi taler [,] Mehtu og jeg [,] og efter middag går vi på dækket [,] spændende at tænke på, at vi om en dag vil være i England – Vi går ned til Mehtus kabin og bestiller Lager & Orangade [sic: Orangeade] – De 3 andre kommer ind, og Mehtu vil gerne give dem en drink [,] DN nægter, og han ser utilfreds ud [,] De går ud, og jeg finder dem i vores kabine med N – Jeg klæder mig af foran dem & sover. "Du er nøgen og sårede mine følelser" – tåbeligt, VS. Jeg siger, at jeg er den eneste mand om bord med følelser.

[Sept 18]

// Morgen [,] pakker op & går til øverste dæk [,] Der er travlhed, folk går frem og tilbage [,] Forventningen er stor [,] vi vil se det første glimt af England — Vi sidder hele dagen, og jeg ser den nøgne pige klæde sig på & gå på dækket med sin gamle mor (som Mehtu fortalte mig) Jeg kan lide hende for hendes mod, men jeg tænker igen [,] hun må være dårligt opdraget for en sydafrikansk pige. Jeg husker pigen, jeg engang bad om at vise mig til en gade, hvor jeg ville levere en pakke — Hun trak sig tilbage fra mig og opførte sig på en regulær sydafrikansk måde — Jeg blev flov — men ikke overrasket

Efter middag ser vi øerne på den franske kyst, først troede jeg, det var den franske kyst og blev begejstret, men bagefter lærer jeg, at det er øen

Sent om aftenen ser vi Englands kyst [,] Det land, der har haft en så interessant historie – Jeg tænker på skibsafgiften, der førte til den store revolution imod kongedømmet i Eng. [sic: England] & hvornår kongedømmet i England begyndte sin nedgang i magt –

to leave the ship and the two little boys
the leap from high up the Bal C +
make spectacular dives into the water
below - we take the boat & leave Madeira
with its beautiful pyramids calling in vain -
It is the south end of island that is most
populated - We pass the statue of St. Vincent
on stretched hands - there off to open sea -
We exchange experiences & I hear 3
W + N enjoyed a fine 10- trip - They saw
a Pro sheker - a plump dressed girl who
beckoned but they merely saw - Abr seems
stunned He says he is horrified but I don't
believe it - He speaks of Mother & Sister etc
futile. We eat bananas & grapes Madeira -
The sunset is beautiful gold molten gold
the sun sinks like a ball of fire -
Hay tell of the Madeira-man speaks
French - We drink Madeira ~~Wines~~ - brought
on board by Watson + N + 3 -

We get up + breakfast - after that I go up
to find the 3 with the man from Lyon
He speaks for me from the French book
brought by Abr - a fine fellow - He offers
drinks Drake Lager & Mado & wine + beer

The South African gaze + gaze - We
talk on + ignore I drink with a
perceance or colour restriction in SA -
Bell for lunch - We go down - After
so, decline lunch we go to Naidoo Cabin + have
offer of wine given by Naidoo's man - It's 20
years old - He call him He Grey -
Cards afterwards Casino - The Nyon
takes him man suggests talk round the deck but
Naidoo + to back out + leave him to
once a month to be - awkward - make feeble
drum point gestures with his hands - Nektu
heart of cones I am glad + then he goes
Frachha we go down again + Alask Naidoo
why he tries to show he off - a
bad light to the man - cigarettes +
blunder at Casino - He becomes angry
+ Nektu cones to my help - I call
him a Nazi - SV tries to make
peace - He go out + we rest again
There is a concert after dinner
+ we play juggling + two white
boys rush down + pull up nets
+ order us off - He play on + man
cones + tells them off + Nektu cut up
badly + come to cabin and have to leave

if the boy was wrong - I say a small nazi &
deserved to be kicked.

Concert in the evening + mehm + I go -
Atmosphere tense - My little friend Whitman
fetches Watson - a huge black form - the dark
cabin gets up - Ships orchestra then the
"local talent" - Lorna sings two negro
spirituals + wonder why she sings these songs
+ what these hypocritical SA. are thinking -
One photo re ~~the friend~~ + ravage his
friend - The old bones stare like ~~stone~~
mays in stone - The place seems the hell
of them - The crowd sings & is secured
classical dancing they call it but flat
short costume wonder what these Mrs. Gurdies
are thinking of the natives seeing a white
bone & decently dressed taking a display
before natives - Begs out before the community
singing - I don't clap - 2nd Exports
room he takes lager + beer made - Begs
down stairs + cabin - M. arrives + stands
at landing watching the white go for port. He
does odd things - I hear him tell a man
that he is going to the USA etc. He laughs
hysterically at nothing - Sleep -
Before breakfast mehm tells me

Quinn
says he
will go
SA. but
I reject
but this
is an
English
boat

Naidos Unkoff about Great - I meet
them and the sa. sh. - I tell them
that I did anything I that the I wished
to do when I felt like it. The part
Carpenter + sit with Mekta on deck
looking at ships on the horizon -
A girl comes + sun bathes and is
front of us + I look at the old
women the are horrified and
Mekta says he shd scramble
for it but I stop him + he sit -
she does not seem to care about our
nearness - He stand up, after that
+ go to cabin - Mekta is amused
Chief Engineer she laughs -
tells us a party will be going
down at 10 o'clock.
the engine
bego down to the engine + it
is not as horrible as I feared -
Abr is afraid + returns - Naidos
is irritable + wishes I ask the ship
out about a guide is irritable
says sh. shd not do it - bego
down to machine - man foreman
shows us round - Abr cannot
stand the heat - so returns - I turn
- deck, Mekta says he is happy to
meet me - Lunch

Late in after noon - Mehta comes with
~~photograph~~ of Stokes - wrestle, better weight
Champ of Maccas - - I don't see the
French man - he talk Mehta and I and
after supper he talk the deck eaching to
think in another day we shall be in
England - he go down to Mehta's Cabin
and order Lager + Orangeade - 3 rest
come in + Mehta wait to stand then
a drink of N. refresh + he looks midshipman
he go out and I find the in cabin
with 11 - I undress before then + sleep
"You are naked and lost my feelings"
- future, 13. I say I am the only one in board with
feeling
Morning pack up + go to upper deck
There is the bustle people going to + go
Anticipation great we want to see
the first sight of England -
He sit all day on and I see
the naked girl dressed up + walking
the deck with her old mother (as Mehta
told me) I like her for her courage
but I think again she must have
been badly brought up for a South
African girl - I remember the girl

Once asked to direct he ~~showed~~
to some street where I wanted to
deliver a parcel - She recoiled from
me and behaved in a peculiar
North African manner - I was
embarrassed - but not surprised
After dinner we see the
Islands of the French coast
at first I thought it was the French
coast and was excited, but
afterwards I learn it is the island
~~State~~ Letic in the evening we
sight the coast of England
The country that has had such
an interesting history - I think of
the ship money which provoked
the great Revolution against the
Kingship of Eng. & when the King of
England began its descending
by power -