

F. Tattersfield

H. Q

F. A. U.

B. E. F

France

Home Address

The Hollins

Dewsbury.

W. H. MRS

—

Monday 1st Jan. 1917.

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The beginning of this New Year found me not radiantly happy but rather full of doubts and difficulties. I arose to find that concerts were being held for the patients & others in Ward B. I looked in occasionally and then drifted to Ward for tea, Sister K provided us (the unattached) with an excellent tea and made a very dainty genial hostess. Later I believe she made a very beautiful figure as 'Peace' in the Tableau 'Past, Present & Future' - her pair est la Victoire.

Just as the jollifications were over, at 7 p.m. I was marching down the central corridor to supper. I saw Bibby pulling the bell - I thought it rather strange he should be ringing the dinner bell, and commented on it to him as I passed, he replied "Go to F - Quick" so I marched to F. Ward, found every body in a state of suppressed excitement - but doing nothing - they pointed to the ceiling & there it was on fire. The Ward highly decorated with paper would soon have been ablaze. I picked up the fire extinguishers with Bibby's help got the thing going & squirted the roof, very successfully - the small fire (caused by the chimney getting very hot) was soon out and by the time the hose was 'in situ' & the drill parties on the scene - nothing remained to do but to see that it was no longer smouldering & to take the fire out of the stove.

It was moonlight and I spent part of the night in walking up and down outside, communing with the stars and my own thoughts, which were pretty sad and troubled. Somehow there is something quietening & ~~consoling~~ calming about eternal space like deep I expect one really feels that one's own petty troubles are too minute & that night is an opiate, Shelley has it so.

Tuesday 2nd Jan.

Received a curt vague p.c from K.M.W saying
Dora was to be expected in D on Friday asking me to
look out for her. Very like a woman - I have no idea
what time she will arrive or whence.

During the night Miss Cadbury was taken ill stroke
out into a rash - D^r F + N saw her promptly
ordered her isolation. We got Meave's (dentist)
office ready for her, and in a very quick time had
converted it into a nice clean isolation ward.

The Hospital is put entirely out of bounds & the staff
are more or less isolated B ward in which she
was a duty entirely placed in quarantine.

Wednesday 3rd Jan.

Seiler is placed in charge of Miss C. and more or
less isolated. K. Ward closed Seiler Ashley placed
in charge of H & M with 4 orderlies under her.

I went into Tom Dept instructions as to what should
be done if Dora turned up on Friday, at Capt
Maitland's office asked them to ring up the Hospital

I went on to the Station to try see the Port Land Lord
official but missed him. On coming back met
Grogan we had tea together then a journey round
some of the shops looking at bijouterie & books.
I sat for sometime watching him get his hair cut
then we both returned.

I saw Mation she said she would be pleased to
put Dora up for the night.

Thursday 4th Jan.

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Went into town again to see where I could get grub
if Dora turned up settled that either the station
buffet or the Arcade Hotel would be the best place,
returned had a short stroll on the pier found the
wind very blustering.

Friday 5th Jan '16.

Got up at 2 p.m. and walked into town calling upon
the police authority on my way thither to the station.
Saw the 3-06 train in and while waiting chatted with
the clerk of the detectives. No one answering to D. who had
passed through that day, but a lady more or less
answering to her had been stranded there for several
hours some weeks ago. She was not on the 3-06
so returned by way of the docks to tea. After tea
saw D. N. who gave me a pass to be out till 10 p.m.
he advised me to go to the Transport Office, see Cadbury
and see if he could not arrange for her to be brought
up by car - saw A. F. Wilson who said if I could
'phone up they would send a car down. Waited
at the station from 6-30 till 9-30 - found it very cold
and dreary, wasted away the time in talk with the
Lea and Yard detective and one of the Military Police.
Had a coffee (without milk) and a roll on the
Buvette read "heal eyes from Dora" and smoked
pipe after pipe of tobacco until the train arrived.
No cousin of mine aboard so left instructions with
the Police & returned in time to help Collins with
the washing-up. A quiet night - bits out of sorts
had to be cheered up - this done by making all
sorts of little quotations. Heard during the

evening that the tutors had had a dinner to
celebrate Lita M's leave taking, held at the
'been' - a great row over some - N-R posting up a
notice that anybody attending social functions would
be severely dealt with - as we are in quarantine
until further notice. The dinner happened on Thursday
Lita M. departed Friday - she rather expected me
to go with John but on the day off - but I was
relieved to be able to make the excuse about meeting
my cousin.

Saturday. 6 Jan 16

Got up at 9 - met the 3-06 train - No D.W.
- so returned resolving to give up the search.
Walked into town with Vingo on the above quest
- a strange fellow - very in accessible and not very
generous who a pretter naturally red face is often
vivid with wrath whose eyes glare through his
spees. We both laughed at the notice over an
examined door - the place is equally opposite to
the church (English) & the prison - the notice ran
'Du est bien mieux ici qu'en face'
One is much better here than opposite (or across)
to the church or the god intended
Had a delightful letter from Daisy - thanking me
for the lace and also stating they were thinking
of removing to Mrs Read's old home in Suffolk,
she having removed to Laxfield farm, Mr Read
is to live with them. Rather troubled over this
as I fear Joe may rather worry mother.



The Night - Superintendent
 Nov 1916 - Jan 1917



42 DUNKERQUE. — Le Parc de la Marine; — N. G.



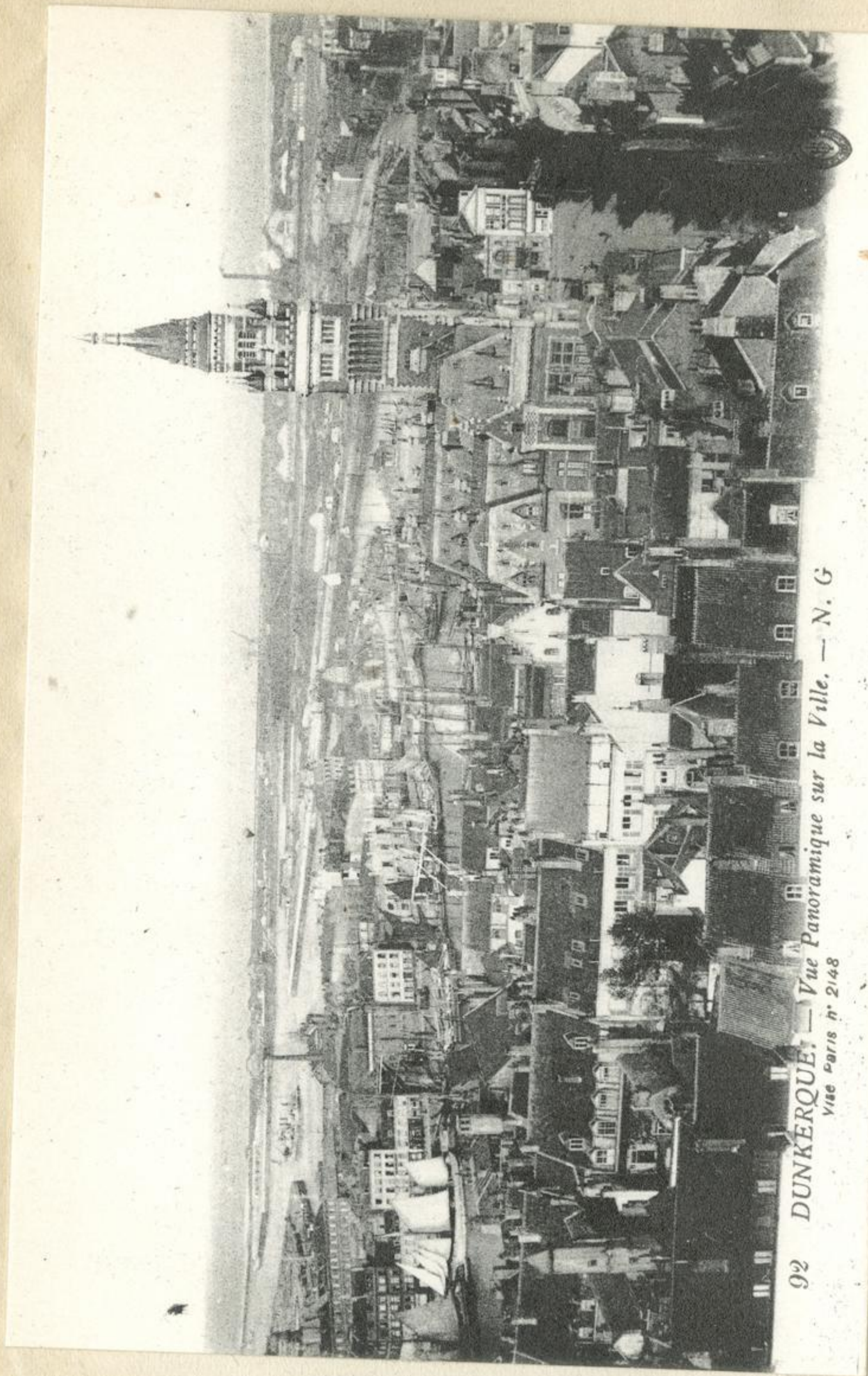
Sunday 7th Jan 1917

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Sunday, a quiet day - spent for the greater part of my leisure in thinking over a reply to Doris's letter. I rather wish they could have stayed at the Hollins till the end of the war - we shall have to do something with the place when over for it is intolerable to think of these two being stuck down in a home which spoils their health, and leads to unhappiness. We must have something smaller, brighter, more easily managed and we must see that mother's journey down the hill of life is surrounded by happiness and comfort.

Spoke at meeting - but with difficulty, & halting utterances and am afraid I was out of touch with the feeling of the meeting.

There was to be an eclipse of the moon in the morning starting at 5-45 - but it was eclipsed all night by storm clouds we had almost torrential rain right through. Collins was out in it ~~at~~ a great part of the time, and the wet leaked in at every crack and crevice, flooding the linen room & running in streams into various wards & rooms.



92 DUNKERQUE! — Vue Panoramique sur la Ville. — N. G
Vise Paris n° 2148

Monday 8th Jan. 17

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I find there is very little to report for this day except the fact that Lites Howatt ceased Night duty and that the day was blustering, and that dark storm clouds were drifting in from the sea, and the rain was pretty incessant, until night when it cleared somewhat.

Collins and I often have serious talks together after we have had our midnight meal - we hit it very well on the whole, and we are more or less agreed that the work of the Unit at here has not been good on the whole for the Society.

Tuesday 9th Jan 17

Rough and stormy weather - I went out on getting up for a short walk and found a great sea running, and that it was rather too blustering to really enjoy battling with the wind. It is fine out over the sea on days like these, where the sun sets there is a strange illumination and the sea is bathed rather in an eerie light.

Lites Marsden brought in a sister, a her name is Anne to whom I was introduced - she said that if she came across D. W. she would ask her to write

What a wild wet night it was! Collins wandered about in oil-skin and managed to look cheerful. His patients slept, one wonders, the torrential rain hail beat furiously on the corrugated iron roofs the wind rattled anything that would rattle. We were both glad to turn in.

Lites Alice came on duty again, and the evening night passed without notable incident.

Lites N said she would be glad if I went to see her people

Wednesday 10th Jan 17 8

How time flies! Awoke to find the storm clouds hanging heavily over the whole sky. Went with Collins and Fichwick to the church of St to hear the latter play the organ. Collins and I took turns in blowing the instrument - hard work particularly during the crescendo passages when the swell was in full blast - the blowing machinery worked by means of a treadle - and there were times when one felt like John Gilpin - breathless and that any casual observer would have ejaculated 'he heavens a race' One gazed down from the treadle upon the rapidly darkening church with its cloisters being gradually submerged in the shadows of the darkening day, shadows relieved only by the twinkling of a dim light here and there. The place was very raw and dirty, and a back view of a cherub even is not peculiarly artistic.

Fichwick was not particularly pleased, as the damp had caused some of the pipes to syphon, and one key board was thereby put out of use as this spoilt the harmony. I played a few notes, and Fichwick continued the tune.

Collins and I agreed that we liked the piano passages best - we hadn't to run so hard.

Saw S. Smith about leave - he said Pearson wished to go but he would see what could be done.

I played Gregory at Chess bet £. 9-30 to 10-30 & managed to beat although the game went against me until the mate.

Lester II paid me for the lace.

Gregory after our game of chess walked with me to the laundry, up and down the pathway we

walked unconcerning very gravely - it was perhaps
the saddest task I have ever had. I cannot enter
the record of it here - but after it we shook hands
spasmodically. I think perhaps we both learnt that
the difficulties of life & the sorrows can must be
faced with courage - that though our heads are
made bloody by events - they must be unbowled.

Thursday 11 Jan

Had a little sleep. Got up to find a wild wet
day - rain & shut mind. Found myself very
restless, and unable to read.

A wild wet night came down. Saw Watts about
leave, and he said that very special circumstances
only permitted the granting of more than 14 days as
the authorities thought there were too many
Red & workers out here, and an account of their
work leave had to be rendered.

Friday 12 Jan

applied for 3 weeks leave

A clear but blustering day - had a brief
walk on the pier, and was struck as usual on
these days with the lightning & the vividness of
the seascape - with its coloring & its movements.

Sat 13 Jan - Tuesday 16 Jan 17 10

One finds that it is difficult, very difficult to read the defeat of life - perhaps it is well that it is so, perhaps it is well because one tries to turn defeat into highest victory. One has been profoundly glad for poetry, and art, for sleep, and for forgetting, and perhaps it is better to have the consolation of having tried to do right - grimly, unwholly, unwholly than to have a mere radiant happiness. I have found my self helped largely by their passage in *Maximilien Bergère* by A. France of Colonel Picquet "loin de le plaindre, je dirai qu'il fut heureux, heureux parce qu'au jour soudain de l'épreuve il se trouva prêt et n'eut point de faiblesse, heureux parce que des circonstances inattendues lui ont permis de donner la mesure de l'âme heureux parce qu'il se montra honnête homme avec simplicité"

On Saturday night I had a grave talk with Coker - tried to do the right thing but found it very difficult

On Monday night when we came on duty, Matron told me that they were expecting 100 shipwrecked sailors. I proceeded to find W. Smith, found him talking over the 'phone about the matter. In the end 57 turned up - 40 sailors were placed in H. Ward, they came in looking cold and dejected and were very glad of the hot ^{cocoa} coffee served up to them and for the bed. It appears that a frozen-meat ship had been sunk by striking one of our own mines - these men had been brought in by a mine sweeper - every body was saved. 17 officers were put up in E. Ward. They had fasted at the 1st. The again turned up on Tuesday.

Wed 17 Jan - Sun. 21st Jan. 11

There is so little to report for most of these days.

On Wednesday - a wheel drive at which I was not present I carried on outside, put a man to bed in A Ward who had burnt his face with an acetylene lamp.

On Thursday I think the only moment no event was my telling Sister N. how much I liked the fellow to whom she has become practically engaged.

Friday - nothing except a gift of a cigarette case from Sister Alice - she gave me to Collins to.

As a night - Supper. She is much ~~better~~ quieter & less active than Sister H. - but then she is older, and her calm placid mind makes her and has made her a godsend and kind of second mother to all the V.A.'s and to the many sisters in the place.

On Sat. night - on going into the huts to attend to the lamps. Coler told me that a case of meningitis was coming in. I went & offered my services to Gregory to look after the man, although I knew how serious a disease it was. I felt a call to do it, however. Dr. Norrads phoned to the Pyl for men. Later I saw Sister N. & found she had been asked to look after the man. I protested that such was not right, that we fellows faced few dangers that we might have done it. But with her usual calm courage she said she had come out here to face anything & she would do it. Both Gregory & I were very angry & we both felt sorry & grieved for her & for Coler. We were being washed up when the man arrived. Collins & I hurried to the door to find the man tied hand and foot upon a stretcher & struggling like a fury but held down by two at least. Collins & I carried him along - I never noticed the pipe in my

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march till Dr. Rock had quietly took it
at. We love him to one of the huts where
Sister N was busy putting on an overall. Dr. Smith
did likewise when they proceeded to unloose
him from the stretchers, undress him & put him to
bed. I do not suppose ~~any~~ many men in the trenches
have faced greater dangers than these two, the
man straggled evidently and they rested his head
exhausted against Dr. Smith's shoulder. I shall
not forget his dazed and weary expression. I took
the two men & disinfecting their hands then
went for Dr. Rockolds who went to the hut &
proceeded to draw off some of the spinal fluid - it
was milky - a true case - they then injected
anti toxin & gave him something to quieten him
then they left that brave girl & her companion from
the Pyl to look after him. After preparing drinks
for the sisters I took charge of ~~it~~ while they had
it & from time to time went to the hut - the 3rd
time I went. I stood at the door & watched the
Pyl man struggling with him, covering his head
to keep the man from coughing on him - I thought
it about time to report - so went to Sister Alice
told so - Sister N. immediately got up & came
away to the hut - and the next time I looked
in there she was bending over him & keeping him
down in bed she turned round & smiled at me
- I think it shall never see so much concentrated
courage. But I went to Sister A & told her
she must not be left alone & Sister A went down
to be near while the man had his meal
The man grew worse his shrieks & cries for his
mother got so bad that finally Sister A

to S. N. he gave them permission to give 13
him morphia some specific. After that he
was quiet till morning! A new man came on
at 4-30 a.m.

The man died on Sunday at about 3 o'clock in
the afternoon. Bibby (lecturer in Greek
at Aberystwyth) from F had to go in to help
keep the man in bed - shortly after the man
struggled out his life - I should imagine a
happy release.

The memory of that brave girl those brave
fellows will never fade from my mind.

Miss Champion told me later that Sister N in struggling
with the delirious patient had had her dress
torn down the front.

Monday 22nd Jan. - Wed. 24 Jan. 14

After night duty and breakfast I went up to the P. U. to get my various papers for leave by chance Barber asked me about my Carnet d'Échanges - I had completely forgotten it - he advised me to return to D. N. He would do it. I returned to the Hôpital. D. N. simply explained Mon Dieu, and said it would take two days, but finally scribbled a note to M. de la Roche Rue de Picardie. Off I trudged, and found the place right away along the fort. I asked to see the M. de la Roche - and saw him in his pyjamas, he asked for many details, and there sat writing in his pyjamas in his cold sitting room, and the poor fellow had a cold too. He sent me along to the General's headquarters at Rosendaal. I wanted to catch the 11 o'clock train and I saw the time slipping away and my chance as well - I found the G. H. Q. up a little country lane, and I had to wait a good half hour before the officer responsible was free to do the necessary - meanwhile I chatted with a French soldier who spoke some English, and who shook hands with me as I came away - then I rushed to the P. U. and to the Consul's office where I got my movement order - but I missed my train. I had a nap at the Station waited about till 3 when I went to the Café d'Écluse I had tea, returned to catch the 7-30 train. The journey down was pretty much the usual thing - very cold the train very slow. There was a young Belgian in my carriage who was very friendly, we shared chocolate, and finally said to me you would give me your address I'll give you mine we write you learn French + you teach me English. I said No it was *Défense d'écrire*. I had to wait at Calais an hour