

ordinary affairs of life, but now it seemed quite unnecessary to hurry. When I got on deck I heard the C.O. order all the Sisters into one boat; it was then that we discovered that the first bomb had been undoubtedly well aimed, for it had hit the engine-room, and so disorganised us that we were unable to carry on to Dunkirk or get away. I got into the lifeboat and whilst there a wireless message came through from Dover requesting us to remain at hand and be ready to be let down when help came. We were informed that help would be sent immediately; however, the Germans must have picked up the message, as a few minutes later I noticed a Scouter plane coming from the direction of Dunkirk. I was not the least bit concerned, as I thought it was one of our own R.A.F. Then later two planes appeared on the skyline; I was still under the impression they were our planes. The next moment I found myself 40 yards out at sea. It was so sudden—one moment I was in the lifeboat and the next out in the sea. I seemed to be thrown so far away from the others, although all the R.A.M.C. personnel were thrown out of the lifeboats. A sergeant clung to Sister Blake and helped to keep her afloat, but I was some way behind and could not catch up quick enough for him to give me any help. The enemy planes were still swooping down on the ship quite low. I proceeded to swim with difficulty towards the *Paris*. This was not easy, as I had on my steel helmet, heavy top coat and shoes, and was surrounded by a whole stream of wreckage which kept getting in my way; however, I finally reached the ship, and wasn't I pleased! She seemed to be the only stable thing and, although I knew it was perhaps better to keep away, I clung with all my strength to a rope which, fortunately, was hanging from the bridge end; I remained there until the C.O. picked me up, but even then there was some difficulty as I kept slipping back into the water. As far as I can remember I had been in the water for half-an-hour, but it seemed much longer than that before I was once more safe in the lifeboat; usually I am not subject to seasickness, but I was very sick afterwards. The C.O. gave orders for all boats to be fastened together, and to all row, but it was hard work for the men as everyone appeared to be rowing in a different direction. We got on a mile or so in this fashion when along came a French patrol boat. The Frenchmen offered to take us into Dunkirk—as we were very near; however, Colonel ——— refused, and said he preferred to remain on the water all night rather than take the risk of going into Dunkirk. We got on another few miles —(it was now about 9.30 p.m.) and beginning to get dark. I know I felt horribly cold—my teeth would not stop chattering—when an old tug hailed us. The captain of the tug said he could take us all on board. While being transferred from one of the lifeboats the cabin-boy died. We all eventually climbed aboard, but the two engine-room men were very badly burnt and their wounds were dressed by the C.O. and one of the Sisters. I still felt very cold; Sister Seeley lay in one corner of the old tug—she appeared very poorly. It was an awful hole; we kept taking sips of whisky from a bottle which everyone had a drink from in turn. One of the ship's officers (*Paris*) came downstairs and told us Jerry was still overhead. They seemed to be over us till well past midnight. I was afraid we were for it again, and I wondered why we couldn't have died on the *Paris* instead of going through it all again.

Six hours later we arrived at Dover; it was exactly 6 a.m. We looked awful arriving there with no hats and dirty clothes. My clothes were dry, but I must have looked a terrible sight. Sister Seeley seemed very shocked and was taken to the ——— Hospital at ———; myself and my colleagues were taken on to the ambulance train, where we were given a hot drink and a clean pair of pyjamas. I was happy to be safe, as I laid in the ambulance train I didn't want to think or talk about it. Everyone was very kind.

The C.O. did everything possible for us. We arrived at ——— Station in the afternoon of June 3rd, at 3.30 p.m., where we were met by ambulances and taken to Bolingbroke Hospital, where we received every kindness.

NURSING EXHIBITION IN MANCHESTER.

In support of a Nursing Recruitment campaign, the Public Health Department of the City of Manchester proposes to hold a Nursing Exhibition from May 4th to 16th, 1942, in the Exhibition Hall, Central Library, St. Peter's Square, Manchester. This Exhibition is part of a general campaign which includes—

- (a) The sending of speakers to address senior girls in the 14 Secondary schools in the Manchester area. These talks will be accompanied by the showing of the Ministry of Information film "Nurse" in the 16-millimeter size.
- (b) The preparation and publication of a leaflet, "Make Nursing Your Career," for general distribution.
- (c) The preparation and publication of a brochure, "Nursing as a Career," for issue to headmistresses, senior school-girls, their parents, and the interviewing officials of the Ministry of Labour.

SECTIONS.

1.—NURSING PIONEERS.

- (a) Florence Nightingale's Work in the Crimea and for Nursing Reform.
- (b) Edith Cavell.

2.—The various sections of the Exhibition include: The Student Nurse. Photographs, pictures and posters illustrated.

3.—THE HOSPITAL NURSE AT WORK.

A miniature ward and suitable equipment will be arranged.

It is hoped that a different hospital will take charge of the hospital each day, sending a sister-tutor and two student nurses for duty to give various demonstrations and talks.

4.—BRANCHES OF WORK NOW OPEN TO THE STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

(1) *Bed-side Nursing*.—Clinical administrative and teaching posts in hospital as follows:—(a) Medical Nursing; (b) Surgical Nursing and Theatre; (c) Gynaecological Nursing; (d) Children's Nursing; (e) Mental Nursing; (f) Fever Nursing; (g) Radiographer; (h) Dietitian; (i) Sister-Tutor; (j) Housekeeping Sister.

(2) *In Public Health*.—(a) Midwife; (b) Health Visitor and Mothercraft Teacher; (c) School Nurse; (d) Tuberculosis Nurse; (e) Matron or Sister in Day Nursery.

(3) *In Domiciliary Nursing*.—Work of members of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

(4) *In Industry*.

(5) *With His Majesty's Forces*—Army, Navy, Royal Air Force Nursing Services.

(6) *Government Nursing Services abroad*.

(7) *Mission Hospitals abroad*.

(8) *Ministry of Pensions Nursing Service*.

(9) *Prison Nursing Services*.

All to be illustrated by photographs, pictures, posters and models.

We are of opinion that genuine Nursing Exhibitions are of great educational interest and value, and advise our readers, able to do so, to visit this instructive show. There will evidently from the programme be much to be learned.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. Veitch Black, Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Department, Box No. 399, Town Hall, Manchester.

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