

J. Tattersfield

H. Q

F. A. U.

B. E. F

France

Home Address

The Hollins

Dewsbury

W. H. MRS
—

Monday 1st Jan. 1917.

1

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 N provided us (the matrons) 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 Bibb 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 extinguisher with Bibb's help got the thing going & squirted the roof & our only - 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 deeps. 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.

2

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 & 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 Ashby placed
in charge of H & M with 4 orderlies under her.
I went into Tom's 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 Portland & Lord
official but missed him. On coming back met
Gwynne 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.

3

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 up 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 while away the time in talk with the Lord and Yard detective one of the Military Police. Had a coffee (without milk) and a roll on the Buvette read "heaven's poor soul" 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 - lots of sorts had to be cheered up - this done by making all sorts of little quotations. Heard during the

evening that the Tuters had had a dinner to
celebrate Liza M's leave taking, held at the ⁴
'bees' - a great row over some - W. 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
Liza 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 inascible and not very
generous who a preter naturally red face is often
vivid with wrath whose eyes glare through his
spees. We both laughed at the notice over an
examination door - the place is equally opposite to
the church (English) & the prison - the notice ran
'On 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 house 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.

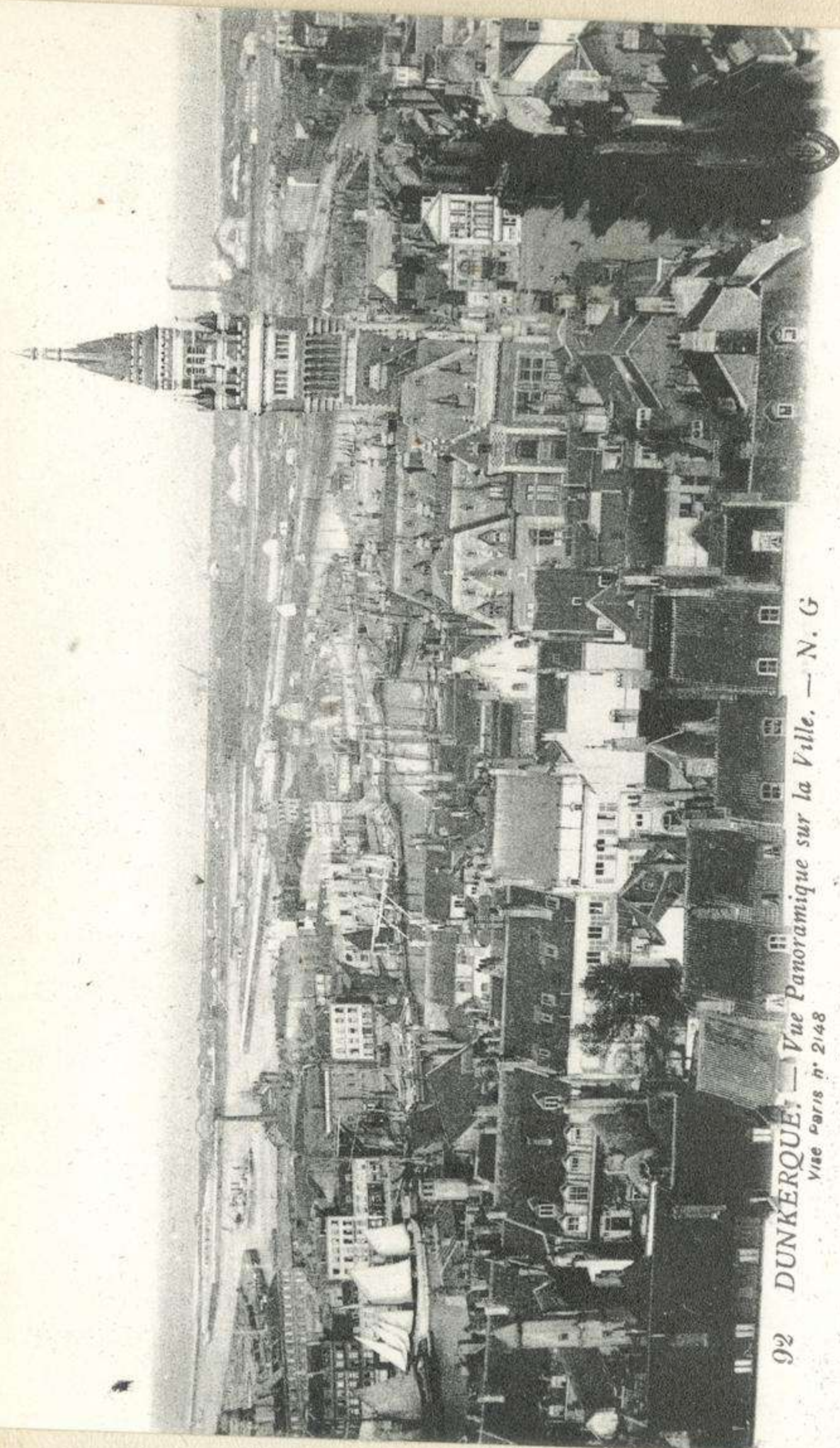
Sunday 7th Jan 1917

6

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, shattering 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 ~~all~~ 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

7

I find there is very little to report for this day except the fact that Lister Howatt began 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 in 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.

Lister Marsden brought in a sister on her way home 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.

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

Lister 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 Fiehwiek 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 heaves 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 flickering 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.

Fiehwiek 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 spoiled the harmony. I played a few notes, and Fiehwiek 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 loss.

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 losses can must be
faced with courage - that though our heads are
made bloody by events - they must be unbowed.

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
Rest 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 lighting & 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, ~~unwillingly~~
unwillingly than to have a mere radiant happiness.
I have found my self helped largely by their passage
in Marcen Berghet by A. France of Colonel Picquart
"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 - I 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 were fasted at the table.
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 momentous 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 - Super. 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 hut to attend to the lamps. Coker 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 P.C. 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 Coker. We were busy washing 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 stalmart. Collins & I carried him along - I never noticed the pipe in my

month till Dr. Rockdole quietly took it 12
out. We love him to one of the huts where
Sister N. was busy putting on an overall. Dr. Smith
did likewise then they proceeded to unlouse
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 struggled violently 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. Rockdole 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 P.C. to look after him. After preparing dinner
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
P.C. man struggling with him, covering his head
to keep the man from coming on him - I thought
it about time to report - so went to Sister Alice
told her - 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 I 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 R. L.
to get my various papers for leave by chance Barber asked
me about my Carnet d'Étanger - 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 Barreman Rue de
Picardie. Off I trudged, and found the place right
away along the fort. I asked to see the M. de
Suite - and saw him in his pyjamas, he
asked for many details, and there sat sitting in
his pyjamas in his cold sitting room, and the poor
fellow had a cold too. He sent me along to the
General Head quarters at Rosendall. I wanted to
catch the 11 o'clock train and I saw the time slipping
away and my chances 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
R. L. 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 Cat Office. 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, cigarettes
and finally said to me You must give me your
address or I 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