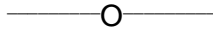


ON A MINED SHIP



Little Common Nurse's Escape.

Amongst those saved from the "Osmanich" which was sunk by a mine in the Mediterranean on December 31st was Miss Rita Gillam, of Little Common, a member of the V.A.D. 112 Surrey (Wallington), who was mentioned in dispatches for her hospital work in 1917. Four V.A.D.s were amongst those drowned.

Miss Gillam was rescued by a minesweeper and landed at Alexandria, having lost all her possessions. She was on her way to work at the Citadel Hospital, Cairo. She writes "I arrived at this hotel with just what I was wearing, not even a coat, everything else and all my money lost, but I am thankful to have escaped with my life. All the nurses were just splendid, not a soul lost her head, and we all worked hard to save our less fortunate brothers. Cheerio! Active service is a bit thrilling sometimes. Don't worry about me, as I am well and fit and alive. I shall be glad to get to work and try to forget it all. At present I can't sleep, as the scenes come back at night. It's an experience all over in 15 minutes, and one which will always be clear in my memory."

Bexhill Observer 2nd February 1918 P1070374

TWICE TORPEDOED

Miss Rita Gillam, a V.A.D. nurse, of Little Common, who as reported last week, was rescued from a vessel in the Mediterranean, was on the transport "Aragon" which was torpedoed twice in a quarter of an hour, on December 30th. She was rescued by a minesweeper.

Bexhill Observer 9th February 1918 P1070374