

**Extracts from the February 1915 letter of Dr Frank Godfrey to his sister Frederica. She and a second sister, Ethel, were accompanying Frank's eldest daughter Eileen on the steamship 'Khyber' on her way to Calcutta to marry Cuthbert Mackarness. The sisters themselves were on their way home to Australia.**

**(the letter is written on both sides of thin paper, is 12 pages long and hard to read, otherwise it would have been scanned and uploaded)**

Feb 17 1915

Dearest Rica,

It was good to hear from Ethel & Eileen from Malta, and better to hear on Tuesday that you were safely past Suez ... Godfrey like, I pictured all sorts of horrors, in the small hours of the morning. ..These modern submarines have a very wide range of action, and deadly striking power.

As I write the wind is howling round the house – a bad Zepp: night!

You were dear things to go on the Khyber ... Thank you once again & again for your loving thought and act. You will get to know the child better, & you will appreciate her more ... She really is a dear little thing. Her leaving home is a very great trouble to me, & I will miss her dreadfully ...Her happiness is of course my chief wish, & it softened the parting much to see how happy she was to go to her 'Cuth' – He is a good fellow – sound, & straight & clean – he will make her happy. And that is a source of great comfort. I am much blessed in my girls, & I am so very glad that you all know them now. Violet is a good thing, & full of high ideals & ambitions. She is working away at her hospital. ... Elma writes happily from London. She is a queer kid, but she has a lot of good in her, & a lot of character. She means to go for in her profession. What a mercy that I forgot to get that passport! Or she would probably have been in Austria still. Horror.

..that bombardment ...was dreadful, but it had its advantages. It stirred our deeper selves ... My two legless sisters go home tomorrow. Mrs Bell Irving had such a nice letter from the Queen, expressing sympathy and admiration for her pluck. After I took her leg off she remarked that it was a good job her most painful corn had gone at last!