

2nd Prize 1944 (2) V.A. B + H
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Upp C The Kaffrarian High School for Girls
King William's Town.

Class C.

My Cousin in England.

My cousin, Hazel, who is much older than I am, lives in "Bletchingly House", Bletchingly, near Dorken in Surrey.

Before the war, life was very peaceful for Hazel. She spent a very aimless life, riding and walking and also rambling round the beautiful countryside. The meadows were always green, and all along the banks of the small streams, primroses grew.

Often Hazel and her mother and father, went up to London for a few days, to see the popular concerts and operas. They also went to see the Derby race meetings on the Epsom Downs.

At the outbreak of war, life became very different for Hazel. She refused to stay at home with her family, but joined an ambulance corps.

in London. There Hazel had a few terrifying experiences.

On one occasion, when a bomb was dropped at Piccadilly Circus, the ambulances rushed to the assistance of the injured. In the meantime the bombs were dropping heavily.

The casualties were mounting, and the ambulances were continually rushing backwards and forwards to the nearby hospital.

At another time, a bomb dropped near the ambulance that Hazel was driving, and as it exploded, the blast was so terrific, that the ambulance almost capsized. The driving of such a vehicle under such black out conditions, which meant driving without any headlights was a very severe strain.

After a lull of about an hour, the ambulances had to report on duty once again, as more bombing and trouble had started, but this time in the South of London, at Streatham.

A fortnight after this experience, Hazel and her section were transferred, first to Liverpool, and then to Hull. There Hazel said, that she saw more fires, bombing and misery in one month, more than she had experienced during the six months she had been in London.

Unfortunately one night, when Hazel was helping to take the injured out of a dance hall, which was hit by a flying bomb, part of the building collapsed on her, and she was badly injured. After a time in a hospital in Hull, where she recovered slowly, she was sent up to Scotland to a convalescent home.

Her one great wish is, that she will soon be well enough, to return to her section in the ambulance corps which is now working at one of the south coast ports, collecting wounded from the battlefield.

of France and Belgium.
