

In "The Evening News" of Friday December 12th 1930 ,were the words.

Vera's 'Good Luck' Message ...

We were in position in the centre of Corbie, just outside Amiens, a few days before the start of our great final advance, when Corporal Landells, who had been left in charge of one of the guns during a small shoot, came to me to ask the home town of Sergeant Hornabrook, who had taken a party of men back to the baths. Corporal Landells explained that when a fuse tin had been unsealed a few minutes before, a note had been found that read as follows;

*Dear Tommy, As this is the last fuse tin I shall seal, and I have to leave munition work, I wish you the best of health, luck and a speedy and safe return to the dear Homeland. Vera Hornabrook, Padstow, Cornwall.*

Now I knew that our Sergeant Hornabrook (a real fine fellow) came from Padstow, and when he returned with his party from the baths, I asked him the names of his brothers and sisters and any relatives in Padstow. He said he had a sister named Vera, and when we showed him the note, he recognised her handwriting.

When he had recovered from his emotion, he asked permission to prepare and fuse his own shell, load and lay the six inch 26cwt. Howitzer, and fire it himself (having previously chalked on the shell "A present to Jerry from Vera and Sergeant Hornabrook of Padstow.") Needless to say this permission was readily given.

When one thinks of the tens of thousands of fuses made and the thousands of guns, the hundreds of batteries and the many countries that that fuse could have gone to, one imagines that it must have been a million to one against it reaching Vera's brother. *F. J. Wooderson (late B.S.M., 238 Siege Battery R.G.A*