

WITH A FIELD AMBULANCE AT YPRES

night. For about half an hour we proceeded thus. Then suddenly from my post on the lower bridge I became aware of a long, lean, dark, venomous-looking shape on the starboard bow, and a commanding voice hailed us through a megaphone: "There is a light showing at one of your ports—put it out, and don't let your speed drop below fourteen knots." It was our escort. A light twinkled at the masthead of the dark shape, which was at once answered by a corresponding light on our port side, and the two destroyers swung round and began to slide through the water, one on either side of us.

Soon we became aware of a great beam of light stretching right across the channel, a beam through which every boat had to pass. And now searchlight after searchlight came into view, sweeping to and fro on the face of the waters, and lighting up the whole channel like a vast ballroom. Suddenly one of the beams fastened on to us, the whole ship became a blaze of light, and we could see our low-lying, sinister-looking escort on either side. We signalled to the fort and were allowed to proceed on our way.

For long I watched that wonderful dis-