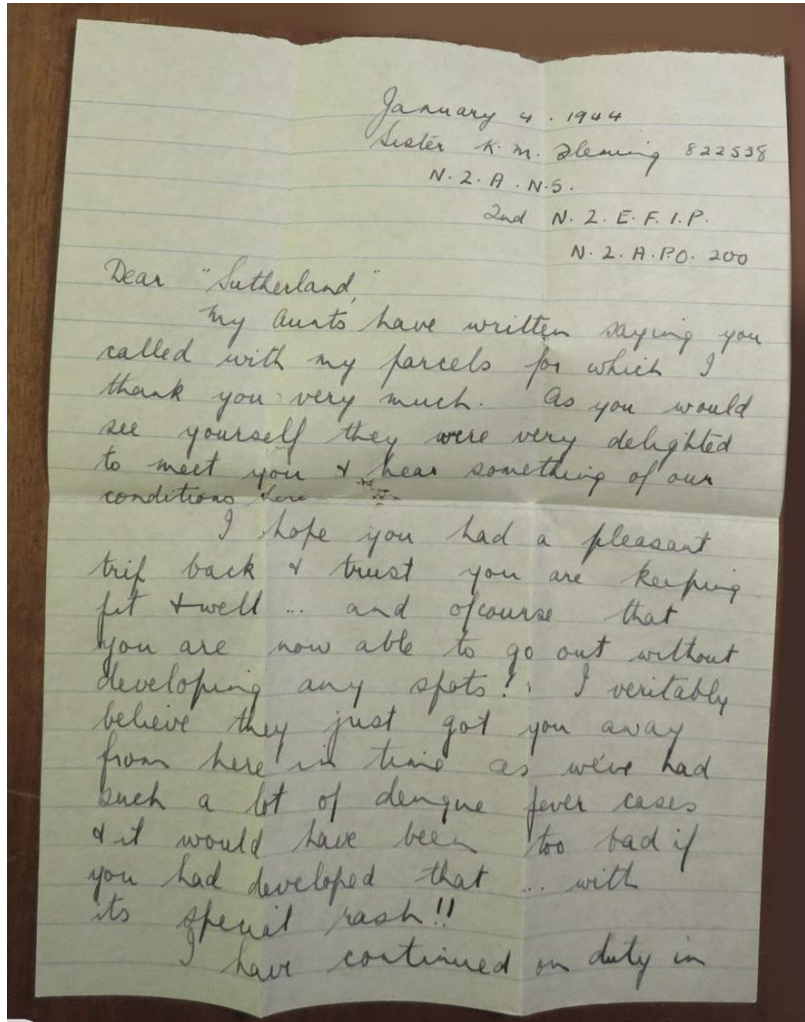


Katherine M. Fleming Biography

WWII letter sent to New Zealand by Sister Katherine Mary Fleming. She writes to William Albert Sutherland in Mornington, Dunedin West, where she had been living previously.



She served in the New Zealand Army Nursing Service, service number 822538. She spent time in the south west Pacific and had a brief furlough back in Dunedin in 1944.

Her enlistment paperwork gave her next of kin as an 'M.I. Fleming (mother)' of Dunedin. Katherine's parents were John James William Clarke Fleming (1877-1939) a university lecturer, and Margaret Isabella Fleming (1891-1961) who lived at 59 Warden Street, Opoho.

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Ward 38 but expect a shift next week  
to an afternoon duty 3-11 pm. Sister  
Wilson is going to 38. We have been  
quite busy practically ever since  
you left & I'm sure the ward boys  
would agree when I say "we  
miss you very much." As a  
matter of fact I particularly miss  
my "morning cup of tea" but  
there hasn't been any time for  
training a new boy lately.

Some ~~time~~ year passed by  
with a few festivities ... not  
exactly what we'd expected but  
nevertheless enjoyable. May I  
take this late opportunity of wishing  
you a Very Happy New Year.  
Once again many thanks  
for your assistance both here & when  
you returned.

I am,

yours sincerely  
Katherine W. Fleming

Katherine came back to Wellington from London on the M.V. Rangitiki in 1946 and returned home to live with her parents after service.

The manifest states she was born 1913 in New Zealand but seemingly her birth was not registered. Nor is there a marriage record for her parents so one can assume they may have married overseas and that Katherine was not born here (there's a birth record for a Katherine Mary Fleming in 1913 in Scotland).

After her mother's death she moved to Christchurch for a few years then to Lyttelton in the late 1960s and remained there through to the 1980s. Seemingly Katherine never married nor had children and passed away in Christchurch in 1995. The sad story of war memorabilia that now belongs to nobody.