

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1936

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The only entries in CK's diary.

7 Jan. Rud signs his will.

12 Jan. Rud taken ill and to hospital in the early morning for an operation.
Webb-Johnson comes to see me at 3 a.m. and later operates.

The Kiplings had gone to London on 9 January, to stay at Brown's before setting off for the south of France.

18 Jan. Rud died at 12.10, our wedding day.

To clarify the timings, it was in the evening of 12 January that Kipling was taken ill and was taken to the Middlesex Hospital. There he was seen by the surgeon Webb-Johnson – see Index – who performed an operation to repair the effects of the burst ulcer. Kipling hovered between life and death for three more days, but on 16 January, Carrie and Elsie were sent for by the hospital, and Kipling died at 10 minutes after midnight on 18 January.

We consider that Charles Carrington's account of his death is the best of the biographers. (RUDYARD KIPLING, His Life and Work, Macmillan, London 1955, pp 504-05.)

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