

Nov. 27. 1916

My dearest Ruth, I must write you a note of some sort to-night, for I shall have no opportunity to-morrow.

I have just had some further information about leave

- it seems there are about 7 officers before me in the group & the adjutant said I might get my turn in about two months. Of course that's a very uncertain date & might be altered either way - It's a horrid blow isn't it?

Darling I am sorry I spoke to you - if I had been a little wiser I might have refrained. But then I wanted you to know of my hopes as soon as possible & it certainly looked as if they were getting on a much faster move than this.

If only they were more hopeful or if we were doing anything it might be easier to bear. At present the news from Roumania makes me feel that I could run like an ostrich & bury my head under the sand.

Captain Litcher is now Acting Major & Bell acting Captain & both put up the badges. I am going to Amiens to-morrow partly to buy the ~~baggage~~ a crown, partly to buy food & drink to celebrate the occasion & partly to make a contract for posts & other necessities for the men's Xmas feast. The programme for Xmas is; - breakfast (9 a.m. - an hour later than usual) - porridge & sausages & mash; dinner - roast pork, plum pudding, dessert; tea - fresh butter & new bread, jam, biscuits & celery; supper soup, bread & cheese.

I fixed it all up with a bit of penwork as the games committee (whose function, presumably, expired when the bty left England), the most surprising thing to me was the unanimous enthusiasm over celery for tea. And I'm trying to fix up a football match with Platner's battery - the ground will require some preparation.

By the way are you sending me out a Xmas parcel? I believe it has to be sent off by Dec. 5. I suppose mince pie wouldn't keep all that time would they? But it might be possible to send mince-meat in some sort of pot or air cork could quite well manage pastry. I don't believe it's any use trying to send any kind of meat food at Xmas time.

We had great music last night before, during & after dinner - one of Littlefair's Scots performed prodigiously on the melodian (an instrument which gives a hoarse bark about every 15 seconds when it takes breath); Bell played with him on the flute & one of the signallers who has an excellent voice & myself to some extent joined in. We actually got as far as trying a round at one point. The recreation room has now a roof & is a wonderful big hole & will soon be a glorious one. A band is forth coming 2 Cornets, a clarinet & a horn. Believe besides Bell's flute & the instruments & music are on demand. So we shall be able to look upon the face whatever horizon the winter holds in store.

Good Night dear love with many many kisses.
Your loving George