

Sat Sept 2

Good morning my dearest.

I have got up before breakfast this morning because I was afraid I wouldn't have time to write if I left it till after breakfast. I am hoping that we shall go up the river to day & if we do I think we shall have to start by the middle of the morning because the tide is high about 1 or 1.30 and we must go up and down with the tide so if we bathe before we go it would not have much time for a letter. I never knew a sea side place where the tide matters much less than it does here, the beach is steep and shingly & it does not seem to rise and fall much.

Yesterday afternoon turned out very sunny & warm. So we took our tea & went along to the next little village called Thorpe and we had tea on the beach. I took off my shoes and stockings and took Clara into my arms and went into the sea with her. When the wave broke & ran up round my legs in white foam & put her legs down & let her dabble in it. I was surprised to find that she was not a bit frightened at the waves and the back wash. When I had dabbled her

for a little we sat her on the shingle. She was absolutely thrilled & kept picking up the stones in handfuls & throwing them down head. You could see her excitement by the tenseness with which she held herself. It was all right for a little but presently she began to want to suck the stones & then it was awful to look after her, she had them in in a second so we put her on a sandy patch but that was worse because she got a ~~lot~~ lot of sand into her mouth and we could not get nearly all of it out. Still I did enjoy having her on the beach she was so amusing & full of enjoyment. Her set mouth & look of determination is something awful. When you tell her not to do something that she really wants to do she just goes on doing it as long as she can & when finally prevented she shakes her hands up and down with rage. She is a funny thing. I took her again into the sea before we went and she nearly kicked herself out of my arms with joy. I let her stand her feet right down on the sand all the time while the waves broke & ran up the shore and only lifted her if an extra big one came that would have wetted her & she still wasn't at all

frightened. Uncle Lawrence came yesterday evening and after supper he and Helen came in for a little while. He is helping to make a model messay for this Arts & Crafts exhibition. He is making great toy stands, painted in gay devices. It's a round one that will stand in the middle of the room I think and also there is to be a big one up one side of the room. It will be interesting to see. He is also making a model of a building that Mr Shelly wants to put up for the names of all the colonials who have fallen in the war.

It does look now as though its a good thing that we have big army at Salonica. I wonder if Hindenburg will shorten the Western front. I think if he does, we ought to try awfully hard to take advantage of it and push the Germans farther back than they mean to go. Its nice to see that the German borrowing capacity is worse than it has been since the beginning of the war.

We are going up the river almost now. We have been out doing shopping and getting the boat since breakfast. I must stop this letter or I shall be

keeping the others waiting

Good bye dearest. I hope I shall get a
letter soon I had one on Wednesday but
it's Saturday now & time I got another
and I am afraid you may be being sent
back to the fighting.

Yours loving

Ruth.

