

[1916]  
Nov. 14. 1914.5

My own Dearest, An interesting communication came to us yesterday from Headquarters - a demand for full particulars as to all ranks with regard to leave, whether they had ever had it, how long they they had been without or so on. I have drawn my own conclusions. The remaining question is, How many at a time? Shall I have to wait until Bell comes back? I expect so. Anyway how to spend it? Ten days is a very short time. I have such a desire for mountains that I almost feel --- a party up there is a very satisfactory way of seeing ~~things~~ <sup>friends</sup>; and B'head would very easily be fitted in. Still we probably shouldn't be able to collect the people. No. Besides I may be back before the end of the Chouse term.

The problems then are (1) Birkenhead and (2) friends. The best way for (1) is to fit it in with London I believe - night is the best time for seeing folk in town who work all day & therefore I suggest spending a night



in town both on the way there & on the way back -  
so that I should get two half days there, & if I stayed  
two nights, a whole day as well: but I should favour  
only staying one night. And about three in London  
& six at Westbrook. It would be very nice to  
have a little party for a week-end while I am at  
W. could that be managed do you think?

It makes me almost dizzy to think of such  
prospects; I wonder if I shall see you before I  
reach Godalming? I suppose not - unless we were  
to meet in town; but I see no point in that; I  
shall just arrive. Suddenly I shall be there. Per-  
haps I shall find you in the nursery, bathing, or  
painting china in the schoolroom.

We've been busy these last few days. Yester-  
day we started firing at 5.45<sup>a.m.</sup> & to-day at 6.45.  
The operation yesterday on the Ancre appears to  
have been a success & it is good to think that  
we can push successfully at this time of year  
after a few days without rain.



I have not been very content with myself just lately. One falls into the way of making so many arrangements for avoiding discomfort that one gets into the habit of thinking too much about comforts altogether & living in a spiritually lazy fashion all round. I get a wonderful lot of sleep here, & I do like my bed - too too much.

I heard from Mother yesterday; she had not yet received a letter from me thanking her for the waistcoat! I'm afraid it must be at the bottom of the Channel. I wrote one to you some time ago in answer to some remarks of yours about religion recommending you to read Renan's Life of Jesus. Did you get that letter I wonder? I believe it was about the same date as my last to Mother.

There are signs of a change in the weather & I want to get some more earth on my roof to keep out the rain when it comes - so I shall write no more now.

Pres your loving  
George.

Mackay reports no enamelled wire.  
Halifax says; - report when ammunition  
gets down to about 350.

