



Hotel Mount Everest,

Darjeeling, March 25 1924

My dearest Ruth These have been full days since we came up here on Friday • to-morrow ^{Wednesday} early, we start for Kalimpong - so that our stay has been short enough, • much taken up with packing • arrangements of one sort • another. Norton has got the whole organization under his hand • we shall economise much time • money by dumping some of our boxes en route; all the stores for the high-camps have practically been settled already. He is going to be an ideal

2nd to Bruce. The party looks very fit altogether. We had a very hot journey through India. The hot weather apparently came with a rush that year just before we landed - the temperature must have been up to 100 a good part of the time we were in the train, as it was reported to be 99 in Calcutta; it's a going duty business - I was glad to get to the end of our train journeying. I was feeling a bit short of sleep otherwise very fit. The only doubts I have are whether the old ankle one way or another will cause me trouble.

Four of us walked up to Senechal Hill yesterday afternoon to see the magnificence - I was trying my new boots from Derbyshire, they are going to be good



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but my right ankle didn't feel too happy. The magnolias were magnificent - a better show than last year - four different sorts white & deep cerise pink & two lighter pinks between - they do look startlingly bright on a dark hillside. The country here is very dry at present & a haze of dust blown up from the plains hangs about. We haven't seen the mountains until this morning when Ranchar has very kindly made an appearance.

Somerville & Odell besides the General,
Gepp, Bruce, & Norton etc were here
before us; it was very nice to see
S. again & Odell is one of the best.
Really it is an amazingly nice party
altogether; one of the best is Hingston
our M.O. an Irishman, a quiet
little man & a very keen naturalist.
The only one I don't yet know is
Shebbeare, who belongs to the
Forestry department & is said to
be a particularly nice man; he
knows all about trees & shrubs
which is a very good thing, but
nothing about flowers - so that we
shall once more be without a real
botanist.



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We go to Kalimpong all together, as before, to morrow and then separate in two parties; I shall be with the second, with Norton, Kingston, Irvine & Shebbeare I believe.

Nel's movements are independent; he is more than ever full of stunts; the latest is a Citroën tractor which somehow or another is to come into Tibet - a pure ad of course - ^{end here} (this may be a secret for the present).

^{cut out}
The Everett Committee has now among us
all a wonderful reputation for middle
the latest is that after all, they
gave us the wrong address, & the old
one, of Post Master, Darjeeling,
is correct - However I shall get your
letters addressed to Jctung with little
delay. The English Mail
should have come in yesterday, but
the ship was 12 hrs. late & we shan't
get it until to-day & consequently
will have precious little time for
messengering - I long to get your
letter, dear though it will only give
me 3 days' news -

How long is it since I left you? It
will be four weeks on Friday. By now
or very soon you will be leaving Cambridge



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for a time & won't feel so lonely - I know you must have been feeling lonely some evenings; but you will have had Frances Wills part of the time - I hope you will have been out or had people to see you sometimes too. I expect the absence of me must make you feel less busy. Have you made a fresh start with china-painting?

Dearest one, I often - often want you with me, to enjoy things with, & to talk over things - people quietly; and I want to take you in my arms - kiss your



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dear brown head. Here's a great holiday time it seems & you not with me. But we'll have a wonderful holiday together one of these days, won't we!

Later - The English Mail has come in & I've had a letter from Mother - but none from you. My dearest, it is very disappointing. I hoped you would catch me at Darjeeling. Perhaps you directed to Yatsung - in which case I shall get your letter there in 7 days' time.

I dined with Her Excellency (what a title) Lady Lytton - her family to-day -

Lady L. is really very nice - but Lord how
folk can live with aides de camp hanging
round! 2 here & presumably 2 more
at Calcutta & one civilian & one military
secretary!

Much love to you dearest one
& many kisses to the children.

Ever your loving
George

One or two experimental crops enclosed -
no good - but I shall have some better one
later on.

