

Dec 14

My own Dearest

This is going to be a horrid letter. I rang Mrs Fletcher up after lunch today and she says that the whole scheme for getting school masters back extra quickly is off and that they will now have to come back in the ordinary course of demobilisation. Darling I am dreadfully dreadfully disappointed and I know you will be too which is almost the worst. I suppose no one knows how long it will be, Mrs Fletcher said something about two months but I don't suppose she knows in the least I don't think she pretended to.

I should have cried this afternoon only the new cook came to see me so I had to stop. I can't even be properly pleased about her because I want her to make you comfortable and if you are not here you can't be made comfortable.

I know you will be feeling horribly depressed

be, this but dont be too miserable dearest.  
After all you will get back one of the first  
when demobilisation really begins. By that  
time I shall be in our dear house all ready  
to receive you and you will be awfully  
happy then.

I like the look of the cook and I have  
engaged her, after all its a great thing to have  
nice servants & I do believe they will both be  
very nice, and both cheerful & good tempered.  
I have been astoundingly lucky to get two  
so quickly. She is coming at £30 to  
be raised if she is satisfactory, she was  
having £35 in her last place so I expect  
I shall have to raise her soon. I think  
I shall raise Violet at the same time I  
dont dont want to give any one more  
than her.

I do feel its awfully hard and horrible for  
you having to wait, but after all its not  
its not so bad as what you have been  
through because you must know now that  
you will be back pretty soon. Still I am

afraid you won't be back before the team.

I am getting on with my arrangements for London.

I am going to see Doris at 11.30 on Tuesday & to tea with Jolly on Tuesday & have not heard from Nancy Graves & Ka yet.

I expect I shall enjoy my day or two there very much.

Maajoie Waterhouse has come and is in great form. She is not going back to France any more as the nasses are now tumbling over one another for jobs, so she is feeling very happy and jolly. So shall we be when you come back.

It is hateful to have to tell you of this postponement of all your hopes.

I do think you know that it has been rather horrid of the Fletchers not to take the trouble to tell us but to wait for me to hear that they had heard something and to ring them up. They heard from this Colonel East last Tuesday so they have had plenty of time. But then I don't think they have ever behaved in a friendly way.

I have an idea by Mrs Fletcher's tone of voice that she felt she ought to have let me know or

that he ought to have let you know.

I sent you a book today for Christmas with a Christmas letter in it. Will you please open it on Christmas day. I also sent you a cake and a little flour & all the chocolate I could get down here, that has got For Christmas on it just so that the post might know that it was to get there in time but you may open it as soon as it arrives if you like.

I can't make this into a very long letter because I am absenting myself from the drawing room & using an extra light (the engine is muddled) I could not write while Marjorie was talking.

My dear One I send you extra lots of love to try and comfort you a little. You know that I love you so everlastingly I do hate you to be disappointed and unhappy but I know you are so full of strength & cheerfulness that you will not be miserable for very long.

Your very very loving  
Ruth.