

Sept 24

My dearest George

I do love you so. I dont know how I shall wait to have you back, then it will be only a few days and another long gap. I wish this war would get on quicker; it is all dreadfully slow

I didnt do very much yesterday though I was busy all day. Sissie left at half past eleven and that always hangs things up a bit. I had Clara in the garden for a bit after I had done the chickens and then brought her into the schoolroom to play on the floor while I did some letters for Father. We heard at breakfast that the new man Father has engaged cant come one guesses he has found a place he likes better, so we had again to go through the likely answers and I wrote to four. Father was going fishing so he couldnt write. I hope we shall get one easily Father gets so depressed now about these little difficulties. Sometimes we are rather a depressed household, but the clouds usually disperse fairly rapidly as far as I am concerned. You see I always have Clara to go to. I do wish Mill had a baby to, she would be quite happy then.

We went to the station with Lily and then went into the town and had our hairs washed. After lunch I finished writing to you and then did a few odd jobs one was to find out the size I wanted the wooden boxes to be

for the cakes I shall send out to you. Then I went up to tea with Mrs Green. I had to up Charterhouse hill because I wanted to leave a present for Barbara Larp at their house. She has just been married. All the Charterhouse is just back and I saw the boxes going up the hill. I met Mrs Heani who wanted to hear about you and I promised to go to tea with her and take Clare some time soon but I could not arrange a day as Ursula will be here next week. I did wish evening that we were living at home and just beginning another happy term. Life there is happy, not counting that it is living with you, there are so many nice things. There are the days when the boys come to tea and we have a jolly time. Do you remember what fun it was soon after I was down stairs after Clare was born when we played charades with with those four small boys from your form. Then I love doing our garden there, and having nice people to stay for the week end, and dropping in to see the Brooks. Oh I wish it was all going on now. I suppose there is a chance that it may be by this time next year. Other people keep saying how quickly the time flies. But it never flies quickly when you would be glad if it were gone.

Oh dearest I have had a letter from you this morning. I am glad you are going to see Mr East that will be very nice for you & for him. Is his battery close to you and will

you be able to see him often? If it isn't too long a way round and you see him again I would like him to remember me to Mrs East. I wonder if we shall ever see them when the war is over I should like to but I feel that Mrs East did not find me very interesting but the circumstances from my point of view were not quite the easiest and I felt shy so we may get on much better another time.

I gather your guns have moved forward but that you have not yet moved into new rabbit holes. Is that because its too wet where the guns are or because there are no new holes. I do find it so hard when I have had one letter to wait for next instalment. I want so much to hear whether you did see Mr East and more about what you think of Clares photographs. I am glad you like them you really could hardly help thinking them attractive. So you think her very like father. I rather expect she will end up by being a good deal like me because when I was a child everyone thought me very like Father. As for Father never being backward there you are wrong. He had told me himself that he was very late developing in most ways, and that his brain power did not come to him till unusually late. I am sure Clare is not a bit stupid and I dont think any one thinks for a moment that she is. But I do think she is developing

more slowly than some children do, but lately she has come on such a lot that she is decidedly less backward than she was a month or six weeks ago. She does not seem to strike people generally as being backward it is only anxious Violet and I who realize it, specially when one reads the book we have on babies. She seems now to be taking more interest in people than anything else although she does like her toys very much, but she is not clever at finding how things open and what should be done with them as Marjorie used to be. I have hopes that her mind may take after yours. I should like all our children to, and I should like the next one to look like you. I saw Clare for an instant look so like Bobby the other day. Father seems absolutely certain that the war must end next year, but years are so long.

I think Clare shows signs of being thoughtful, she often seems to go into dream land.

I hope you are having this nice day weather to dry up your swamp. But oh I fear you will have a hateful winter. I think you ought to have got some more clothes before this. If I go to London tomorrow I will look round for a waistcoat with sleeves. I gather that you want something thicker than shetland. You ought to have it any way.

Your very loving
Ruth.