

Sunday ^{June} May 4

My dearest, I see by your two letters received yesterday evening that you are back at B'head. I had imagined somehow that you were going back to Westboard from Aric & consequently addressed your letters there - I take absolutely no account of the flight of time in this country, or I suppose I couldn't have been so silly as to imagine the fortnight over. But after all I seem by the date to have been out a month haven't I?

My letter written to you yesterday, the first from this new abode will tell you a good deal, & things are slackening down a bit now so that I will be able to write more. It is now 7:30 a.m., I took parade at 6.0 & set the men to work & there's not much more I can do. One distribute men about the place & visits them to see how they are getting on. The digging work was started in earnest yesterday & we are only kept back now by want of tools. I'm in charge at the guns for the first week - till next Friday that is & the fun of arranging covers etc is chiefly in my hands. I also have to see to ammunition - which is quite a big job when we spend or receive a large amount.

But this is all beforehand for you because you won't have heard yet the beginning of the story. Well, my dear I can't repeat it now or this letter won't go off by the dispatch-rides at breakfast time. You'll see from what I wrote yesterday that we had a hard three days, that we're settled down now to an open air life - with the reservation that we're obliged to sleep in dug-outs. That rats abound, & that I want you to get sent out

to me as soon as possible (i.e. wise to the place) a large quantity of Liverspool virus.

The wild strawberries here are delicious; I am sitting on a beautiful sunny bank not far from the guns & on my way to this spot I fed beautifully. Altogether I'm as happy as a king. I don't like the two young subs, but then I have Bell & I like - am amused by Littlejaw who is deliciously Scotch & the ~~the~~ captain of the other $\frac{1}{2}$ battery who are with us seems quite a nice man; - and if anyone is left out it is the two subs - who don't even like each other (one of them quite an impossible, but the other though being a child in the bad sense is quite keen on his work & I expect I shall tolerate him). I am mess secretary, for which post I was at once seen to be well-qualified!

Next week I shall be doing O.P. work - by no means arduous & shall have plenty of time for writing letters.

Farewell & do recover your sadly lost box. No doubt as you say you are accustomed to such losses, dear Ruth, but I would ~~not~~ make a practice of shedding boxes.

I had a glorious letter yesterday - I am grateful for what you say about my living a full life here - for your love is splendidly unselfish. I know dearest.

Dear love I kiss you
Love to my parents -
Yr. loving George

Cakes & Soup tablets & any sort very welcome