

Dec. 9. 1918

My dearest Ruth I had two letters from you awaiting my arrival here Dec. 10/3. I'm sorry you have been left without sometimes - it is generally because I have been posting at different places - as for instance this letter will surely reach you more than a day after the one I wrote yesterday from Trafford's. I have not much to tell you since then except that I had what is known in the R.A.F. as a 'flip' in the afternoon. Trafford was to have taken me up immediately after lunch but someone came to see him & he afterwards, rather selfishly I thought played hockey & as an afterthought found one of his pilots to take me up. We came over here to the battery & after waking everyone up by flying low over them I dropped a message (I made a very good shot as it appeared, & almost hit the mess). We then started stunting - I can't tell you what it was like - as a pure physical sensation at the critical moments something seemed to grip one's whole body; whether it was

fear or what I can't say. We did some immediate turns - if you know what that means - you go very fast down, then very steep up then right over ^{on} one side & part of the back & into a vertical nose dive. I held on like grim death - as it ~~is~~ was only prudent considering I wasn't strapped in (though it may not have been all prudence that dictated that). After a particularly sensational turn my little Canadian pilot looked round with a grin & made a motion of looping the loop - at which I emphatically shook my head; I had been quite enough upside down; one is very exposed in a Bristol & one does want to be strapped in for that. I was tempted to reverse my decision, seeing what a chance it was for a wonderful sensation, but I reflected that I knew nothing of the pilot & he had a most reckless face. I'm glad to say our performances only impressed the spectators so that I am able to feel that my qualms were only such as fitted the occasion. Tjaffort came in to dinner last night & later on Atwell arrived with Pemberton who had been to fetch him

from near Calais ; he is going to stay here
for some days.

There is nothing through yet about my return,
as you have no doubt already perceived. It is
now 9 weeks since the application went in
& I am getting rather anxious about it.
It will be quite sufficiently annoying
not to get back for Xmas if that is my
fate ; if I am delayed much longer & that
it will be seriously disgusting & if I'm not
back in time for the beginning of term
I shall weep.

I had a letter from Brother Giles yesterday ;
he has suffered from enteric fever & malaria
& is now in some cushy position at the base
with visions of Kenia & Kilimanjaro - You
might pass this news on to Allen & Henmi
if you find a chance - The Hennis by the way
would be very glad to see you ; I had a very nice
letter from H. some days ago in answer to one
of mine.

I must end this now as
the post will be going. I'm quite glad to
be here again ; my brother officers seemed

very glad to see me again ; & this sweet air
is very pleasant after Paris.

I had a note from David after his visit to
Westbrook the other day - he said you were
ravishingly beautiful - I don't doubt it, sweet
one. Great love to you.

Yours loving George.

