

Aug. 15. 1916.

My dearest Ruth,

I found no time to write to you all yesterday & now it's nearly lunch time before I can begin to-day - I must get off what I can by this mail.

I have been rather depressed. The day before yesterday I went up to the trenches - an early start (not really early - breakfast 7.15) to make sure of getting something done. The trenches were in a filthy state owing to a more or less futile attack made by our men the night before. I don't object to corpses so long as they are fresh - I soon found that I could reason thus with them: - 'Between you & me is all the difference between life & death. But this is an accepted fact that men are killed & I have no more to learn about that from you; and the difference is no greater than that because your jaw hangs & your flesh changes colour or blood oozes from your wounds. With the wounded it is different. It always distresses me to see them.

Once more communications failed. All the wires were broken when I arrived. However I had a line laid by night & as the light was beautifully clear I had every hope of doing some very useful registration. Then through a disgusting piece of mismanagement on the part of the higher

I can't explain  
authorities everything was spoilt & may I stayed  
up till evening I can't do nothing. It was a  
very trying day.

Yesterday I was superintending works in the battery  
& generally running round after one thing and  
another, and in addition had to square my  
Anteen & Men accounts which were sadly behind  
after our disorganised life lately. How I hate  
accounts! But I feel sure after doing them that  
I shall go to Heaven.

Two parcels from you arrived two days ago -  
Many thanks - especially for the lavender.  
I'm sorry to say the sock burs were very sad -  
fraying pitious counts at every pore. I think  
I shall have to devise a different way  
with parcels - what about tins? Bell has his  
stuff put in tins & the whole wrapped in  
cloth & sewn up. Evidently a good deal of packing  
is required between a cake & the box it is packed  
in. However the soap tablets & pomes arrived  
in good condition.

Will you please get me a new strap for my  
wrist watch - just a simple strap, a good firm one  
& not one of those which is half a case as well.

Some more to mention  
this must go now -  
your loving  
Dorothy