

May 2 1917

My dearest Ruth, You received a letter on May Day - did you get one; I had three; but I didn't write yesterday; I was at the O.P. - really had such an idle morning that I might well have managed if I had had any paper. May Day is my one anniversary - you know why. I suppose I must have been in this country about a year now. Holidays aren't so frequent now as they used to be; it would <sup>it</sup> be so bad to get a month now would it! Supposing I were to come upon you quite suddenly - just walk into the orchard and find you lying under the trees - that would about fit the season. It would be almost equally fitting for you to join me in the wood near here among the ~~stars~~ heaven of flowers. Real life however disposes of us more vigorously from a maligner's point of view - yesterday when of all days in the year our lips should have met with kisses I was condemned to sit all day in a dry ditch (better its tone than a wet one)

while you no doubt were sewing in the nursery  
- perhaps sighing as you sewed. Still real  
life has sometimes pleasant surprises. My great  
surprise on the whole is to find how easily  
endurable it is.

I can't say that the  
surface of life is very exciting just at present.  
We are having a slack time & enjoying the  
sunshine. Things go along quite smoothly &  
nicely. We are quite happy together in the  
Mans now - I'm bound to say Dunbar's absence  
has a soothing effect all around. I finished  
off Wells on the boat two days ago - it's really  
a very interesting work; but the end part about  
European civilization as a whole is not very  
satisfactory to me; it's too vague & too far from  
life as we find it. It hardly requires saying  
that if everyone serves God or whatever each  
person puts up as a substitute the world  
would be very much better. But what we  
have to do is to make <sup>our</sup> world out of material  
a large part of which is sure to be non-moral

a non-religion, We'll want religion without  
the Churches & there as you know I'm very  
much with him - but that is not more  
easy to teach than the old way but more  
difficult, because more intangible. Apropos  
of the Churches I rather amused myself two  
days ago when I went to visit the canteen at  
P. in company with the group padre & Signaling  
Officer. We fetched up for lunch at a Church  
Army Room - a most unsatisfactory institution,  
instead of a sensible meal which one pays for  
they provide or don't provide as the spirit  
moves them a ragtime meal which one puts  
money in a box for. Those other persons turned  
up, 2 R.C.s. They began talking shop; I chimed  
in & said to the R.C. sitting next me, "But why  
don't you give it up. Here's the finest chance  
you've ever had of waiving your differences.  
We laymen don't care two straws whether  
you're R.C. or C of E or what you are; we don't

want that sort of talk out here. One wants  
religion. Poor man I ought to have  
been sorry afterwards, he looked so dismayed  
- but I felt no remorse.

I had three letters from you & one parcel - sausage,  
potatoes - camp pie - very useful O.P. food  
many thanks. I'm much amused with  
your account of Marjorie's last place; it is  
indeed a changed world! But I suppose it's  
rather annoying for M - still she'll easily  
find another place. I've read a lot  
in Chatter Box's News on the war, but I don't  
feel altogether in agreement. Don't see why  
everyone should be starving by the autumn,  
as the Germans will probably get the Romanian  
wheat. The sort of end we have must be  
conditioned by what we can do; but its use  
use hoping that because the German people  
are fed up with the war that they will  
put to rights things outside Germany;

and until we get them put right & have  
self governing states in place of the various  
oppressed members of the Austro-Hungarian  
Empire & until we break down the German  
power in Turkey & Bulgaria we are actually  
worse off than we were - Germany & all that  
is meant } that war now will be stronger.  
I'm afraid I don't believe in the power of  
any democracy or any revolution to put  
Europe straight. If only one could know  
that by going on we could put matters  
straight; at present we must go on  
till it's evident we can't; it's not  
pleasant.

How good Wells is about (Turkey) in  
the army! It's quite true all that  
part - with exceptions of course.  
Now dearest I must draw to a

close! on the gunners say - I wish I  
could draw you to a close hug.

Much love to you always darling

Your loving George.

