

Sept. 12. 1916

My dearest Ruth, I had three good letters from you yesterday - which was a great bounty & also an indication of the mach how they work. I'm very sorry you were so long without a letter from me after I left La Houssoye; I reckoned you would miss two days - not more & I'm sure the delay must have been ~~the~~ in transit.

I'm sorry you're finding life a little dull; I hope Aldeburgh would be rather more a place of adventure, as you suggest if I were with you. Ah my dear Ruth I think it would be. You know it must be confessed about the L.A.T. family that they're sadly without springs - not that I want people to be always in a hustle but rather to retain the possibility of a fine care less capture: I'm sure we would dash off somewhere together & be gay for a time & then duly enjoy repose.

How often things are good by contraries - I am very pleased with life just now, only because the sounds ~~and~~ of

battle have so subsided, that there is a real
sense of repose about in the air even here.
A quiet soft September day! And where
ought we to be but among the hills?

The hills is ominous & no doubt proverbial.

I didn't write to you when I came
back from Corkie the other day. It's really
a desperate business getting stuff from
the canteen & I wasn't back till dinner
time, & after wards I wrote a long over due
letter to Robert Graves. I do hope you'll
see him when he's better & I haven't
heard or more of him I suppose?

I really get quite a lot of amusement
out of life here; we are quite a pleasant
little society of officers with no objection-
able members & no bore. Wood, it came
suddenly upon me some days ago is a Jew;
but sure the most silent that ever was
known & Dunbar has a funny Scotch
conceit not at all irritating & I continue
to like him; Carey is a rough diamond &

& now that I am accustomed to my course
habit of feeling he doesn't interfere with
the even course of my Christian feelings.

My campaign against rats & mice
has been newly armed. I came back from
Corbie with a mouse trap & a rat trap
- for personal use so to speak - to catch my
own rats & mice. They have been greatly
successful; the two mice which were
building a nest of paper which they used
to keep warm all night were victimised
in the first hour & there were two
victims, more victims I suspect last night.
Rats, happily, don't injest my dung
but as they swarm in the neighbourhood
I thought it wise to guard the entrance.
A more useful purpose however seemed
to be served by lending it to the officers
Cookhouse - ~~the~~ six rats were caught
in an hour - we shall have to dig a
special grave for the numerous corpses
- which so well establishes the use

of traps which I had imagined too slow
that I have got little now to send over to
Corbie today to bring back a score or so
of each kind for the men's dogs.
The men have really suffered a good
deal from these beasts, its not only that
they continue to dislike to have the dirty
beasts running all over them & in some
cases lie awake (as a matter of fact the
more practical minded have fixed themselves
in willow) - but its impossible to
keep their clothes intact; mice it
would appear eat clothes more than rats.

Really the occupation of their old dugout
was a mistake - but it was the
safest plan we couldnt tell that we
shouldnt be shelled. In that respect
since you enquire about it, be it said
that this position is hardly less immune
from attention than the last.

The men have another cross now - we
got in ^{now called Louy} La Houssaye. Its really most
annoying that they should have kept

free of these unpleasant guests for so long
a be saddled with them in that way.

Dearest I am sorry you've been feeling
so depressed. What a meeting we will
have. Yes - I'll look younger to you I
expect. I think I do look rather
different. (I have taken note for your
benefit). I must own I was rather
shocked by what Arie called the 'logie'
photograph of me. I think I've lost that
look & am more as I used to be - pro-
bably my face is fatter. I shall be in
the mood you describe no doubt; & you
dear? Will you look very happy? Will
your eyes be very wide open? I'm sure you'll
be very beautiful & very sweet. Oh my dear
what a meeting we shall have!

Adieu with all my love

Your loving George

