

(8)
Tuesday May 16 1916

Dearest

I have just had two letters from you, one written when you had reached your battery and one written the day before when you were not very happy. Having read your first letter I know why. Oh my darling, my darling I am indeed glad you were not sent to a trench mortar it would have been awful and so horrid for you. But I don't see why you should have been. If you may tell me I should like to know. I thought they were only supposed to send the people who were not good enough for siege. Do tell me what stopped it. Dearest I do hate to think that you should ^{have had to be} ~~be~~ miserable over it. I do want you to be happy. But you are happy now, and I am so glad that you like the other officers in your battery. I know they will like you. You will get my letters soon now, and I think your letter was only

three day coming here to I hope you will get mine on Friday. Please do date your letters, you so often forget.

My dear I cannot tell you how thrilled I am by your letters, and how happy that you are with you battery and like it. It must have been exciting joining it and seeing all round way thing.

I do want to know so much. I want to know exactly how you heard it was to be the 40th Siege Battery and not a trench mortar, and how and why you believed it was to be a mortar. I am afraid I am asking a lot of questions I ought not to. Don't answer them.

My dear I am much happier now I know that you are settled. I feel I would like to send my love to the 40th Siege Battery.

Would you now like me to send you cakes and things. I am going to Birken head tomorrow so I cant do much from there, but I will send anything you ask for. I shall

send your pillow cases off today and
the compasses with them. I hope they
will be all right.

I went to call on Mrs Irvine yesterday
but she was out so I went on to
Mrs Tew. I had meant to go to Mrs
Heanni but I met her on my
way so knew she was out. She
told me that Mr Heanni has been ill
with influenza and tonselitis all the
holidays, and when I called before
they were not home. Mrs Trews
baby can just stand now. I heard
more about Mr Kendell from her. He
seems to be amusing the good people
of Chaaterhouse considerably.

He ought to be called up as a Tommy
in a fortnight; but he has gone in
for another head master ship somewhere
in Hampstead I think. So Mr Fletcher
says ~~it~~ that he cant let him go
there and at the same time go to
a tribunal and say that he is
indispensable to Chaaterhouse. So unless
he gets the head master ship I suppose

he will have to go. Mrs Trow said she thought he was very likely to get it this time, because he is the late headmaster's nominee. I hope he will. Apparently every one hopes so.

I had a very amusing time yesterday evening after I came back from Mrs Trow. I took babe over to the Williams house to see Constance Mussen's baby. It's only two weeks older than mine. But a good deal bigger. They were sweet together. Her baby wanted to embrace Clare immediately, but Clare to one good look and then began to cry so I took her on my lap and she buried her face in my neck. Then her curiosity was too much for her and she looked round out of the corners of her eyes & buried her face again. She was not long before she looked all the time. So then I set her facing the other baby and advances began. Renie, Constance's baby, took Clare's toe. We soon set them on the floor together and they shared a rattle. At first Renie kept snatching it and Clare let go but by the

end of the time Clara seemed to have made up her mind that she was going to have and succeeded most of the time. There are so different. Renee seems to be much more quickly faindly & more of a jolly romp. Clara is much quieter and more determined. I liked Renee's rolling romping ways very much. I felt that Clara was going to have the more difficult character to deal with. It is very interesting having another baby of the same age to compare her with. Her feet and hands are much much smaller than Renee's and she weighs 18 to Renee's 22 lbs. It's after lunch now. Before lunch I cleaned your bicycle all over, quite thoroughly I think. It's hung off its tires so it ought to be alright. I have given you parents news of you twice already, and I will tell them the latest tomorrow when I see them.

Bice is here and she is staying the night and we are going on the river now so I must stop

I dont suppose I shall get time for
much of a letter tomorrow and it may
not be quite so quick from Birkenhead
as from here.

Good bye for today dear I do hope you
a still getting on allright

your loving
Ruth.

