

July 25. [1916]

My dearest Ruth I saw Mr Thompson's name in the casualty list some days ago & would I had thought then to tell you that he was not in the RGA but in the infantry, a quite a different person from the man who joined with me (Thomson). As to my own dangers just now; - this battery position has proved quite wonderfully safe & we have hardly had a shell near us. We shan't always be here - I can't explain why we are here still - a move can hardly be for the better, may be for the worse: but anyway the danger from German counter-battery work is nothing for you to worry about; it is an outside chance that one will get caught that way. The observation work at the front is naturally not a wholly safe affair - all I can say on that head is that everyone tells me that one is safer in the actual front line than anywhere else - because so few infantry are kept there that it is hardly worth the enemy's while to deal with it seriously unless he intends attack; he has far more evil intentions toward the support lines, <sup>as we are not there at present</sup> however it's likely I shall have little of that work to do as there is a prospect of carrying out F.O.O work by aeroplane, & my name has been sent in for

the job. I have no knowledge yet of what that will entail - presumably only work for this battery & anyway I don't think it's on the cards that I shall leave the battery. I have no hesitation in saying that it ought to prove the safest way of observing under the present circumstances. It seems a very obvious plan; I have always wondered that it has not been adopted before - I mean that R.A. officers should be taken up to do their own observation.

Your parcel came ~~yesterday~~ today - only one, but it seems to contain all you mention except tea - ~~or~~ <sup>a drink</sup> I hope the other will turn up. Is there still one overdue? The potatoes & carrots have also arrived with wonderful punctuality & I'm very glad to have them. You might let me know how much you paid for potatoes? By way of a change of diet it would be very pleasant to have a chocolate cake next time if you think there's any chance that it would travel - what about some tins? or would they get stale too quickly?

We are only four here now. Quinn left us last night to be with another battery temporarily which has suffered casualties. I expect we shall find ourselves somewhat short handed till he returns. I like extremely to think of you in the Westbrooke garden before breakfast, it gives me a great longing to be there too. *Yr*

Write me lovely letters. As regards your ambiguities  
I have noticed <sup>none</sup> ~~any~~ recently - spelling I gave up hoping  
for long ago, though I still experience a brutal shock  
at 'today' with 2 ds & 'fail' for pale & 'loosing' for losing  
& 'shadow' for shadow. Will you please explain what  
you mean by W.T. (Willet time); I suppose you allude  
to something in the Daylight Saving Bill, of which I  
took no notice except to alter my watch.

By the bye we've never yet come to any arrangement  
about money. You asked the other day whether you should  
put some into my account - but I have nearly  
£250 lying idle there & have only been waiting for  
some knowledge of your account. I'm all in favour  
of paying off the debt if we can & for this purpose  
my surplus ought to be drafted into your account  
& then if there's any 'thing' over let us by all  
means buy War loan.

I received this afternoon's post a copy of the List  
of Carthusians living etc & have spent some time  
reading names I know & reminding myself of many  
faces - How all that comes back to me! I quite often  
think I would like to see those children playing  
in our garden for choice.

I like what you say about Clare. No one couldn't  
expect her to be exceptionally musical. Queer that

she should prefer men at this age. Heaven help  
her later - and us!

It is towards dinner time, I've been rather sleepy  
all day. I didn't even have the repose of a chair  
till 2 o'clock last night.

Dear love I hope you won't be more than a little bit  
anxious. My beautiful one I long to have you near me  
& talk to you. I was thinking yesterday when I finished  
reading the 'Wings of a Dove' how glad I am that you  
are so pure & true. You don't wobble; I think I wobbled  
much more without you. It's chiefly because you're  
like that there can't come any real shadow between  
us - unless you consider it a shadow that you can't  
spell? It's so firmly established that I WANT you  
- & it always will be so. And you want me dear. It's  
for that mostly that now & then a dark thought makes  
me feel all sick - for you dear Ruth, only for you.  
Be brave as you are constant & true.

Yours loving  
George

