

Saturday Oct 13

My dearest George

I have just had your letter asking for curtains and I will get them as soon as I can. I don't think Haslemere stuff would be the best. It is expensive now and although very pretty it does not show up much. I think I shall get some patterns from Simpson & Anette. I like having a plan of your tank-house. Will you always go on sleeping altogether or will you have chugouts in time?

I wonder if there is anything more you want to make your mess look nice. How do the table-cloths fit your table, and don't you think it would be nice to have a table cloth to put on when you are not at meals it would make your mess look much more cosy. One might be able to get a few thin furniture velvetens fairly cheap.

One reason why Haslemere stuff won't do is because they would have to weave it and that would take too long.

Will you remember when you get this that the Irish mail boat was sunk the day before yesterday. We have seen in the Swanage Advertiser today the M<sup>r</sup> Davy was on it and has not been heard of since so I'm afraid there is

just no chance that he was not drowned. It is horrid and does make one hate those beastly Germans. Father is very sad and unhappy about it. The Hun does not show any sign yet of an intention to mend his ways about sinking ships or burning towns or treatment of prisoners I wonder if ~~he~~ he ever will.

Danai is quite a salient for the Hun now, I wonder how long they will be before they clear out. It's not nearly narrow enough to be dangerous I suppose. I have been looking at the contour map of France in your atlas, the country South of Verdun is very mountainous. I wonder if we ever shall try to do any thing there. I rather expect not because I imagine we could do it just as well from the Verdun area. If we could only get on quickly there we should soon be in Lorraine which I suppose they count more or less as German soil, though not the pocket thing. I am very glad of course that we are getting on well still but I feel so saddened by the awful casualty lists that I can't rejoice in it as I did at the first. I wish you hadn't got your bed in such a

draughty place it can't be very good for your cold. Must it stay there always. Are you able to get decent fires and to keep yourselves warm in your mess, or is it frightfully cold and draughty.

Father has got a new book of Mr Clutton Brock called Studies in Christianity. He likes it very much, better than the Ultimate Belief. Mr Pilcher lent it to him but he is going to buy it. If he doesn't I shall because I want to read it. Would you like me to send it to you presently. It was rather trying that we gave that other book of his to your Father and never got it again. We've forgotten its name now.

Father had his legs put in plaster yesterday. When they had bandaged them into the plaster it was cut off and it has been hardened over the fire and the moulds will be ready to wear this evening. I don't know if he will be any more comfortable in them, but he will be able to be lifted out of bed a bit. He is now supposed to bend the knee of the right leg by degrees. Its awfully stiff. We had Beatrix Williams over to tea so I did

not do much reading as she stayed till nearly half past seven. However I did read Coxy's speech all through before I went to sleep. I was a little disappointed that he was not more definite I don't think he said anything that seemed new to me about the guarantees for peace that the League would have. He did suggest a Police force of some kind that should belong to them. But I should like them to have a decent sized army, and some navy. What he said that I hadn't quite realised before was that as soon as we do away with navy's our merchant shipping will become our navy's the instant we start to fight. He evidently thought that the great hatred we all have for war now was the greatest guarantee. But although I agree we still must have some force ready in case anyone breaks out as the Germans have.

I bought two picture post cards of fairy's for Clare to send to Molly and John. She did with much effort decided what to say to John and did it quite nicely. I had to help her to think what to say on Molly's as she did not feel

like making another great effort. I think Mally and John will be very pleased. They are such dears. I had a letter from Avie today. She says that your Mother's visit went off quite well and that she has prospects of another mail. Avie did not say much except that she is in great hopes that the baby will not be very long now. I hope it won't and that it will be thoroughly strong.

I took your bicycle to the town today to be done up.

I am glad you have sent me plans of your mess. I like very much to know how you live, dearest. Do let me do any thing I can to make it pretty. It is so nice getting letters from you. You have written me a nice lot lately, ever since you went out. I'm sleeping in the Rose attic, not the West so you can think of me there when you want to at night time.

Your very very loving

Ruth.

