

GODALMING

7.45 PM

JAN 5 19



Lieut. Col. Leigh Mallory RGA

515 Siege Battery

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Charterhouse

~~France~~

Godalming

Surrey

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Jan 4

My Dearest

Clare had a good night and is much better this morning though her medicine has not acted yet. So there is evidently nothing really wrong with her. We have been so awfully fortunate so far in neither of them ever having had at all a bad illness, that I always fear one may turn up.

I have also heard that Mary Anne is better they do say if was not influenza but bad neuralgia which sent her temperature up. They will leave on Monday so that will not make so very much difference to the time we can move it in.

I find that after all Pullins daughter wont come and do temporary housemaid for us so I shall have to find some one else. I expect I shall be able to.

I have been tidying up your letters this morning

and putting them away ready to pack.

I came upon one written in April 1917 when we were hoping so much that the war would be over that Autumn and you were saying what a good house keeper you expected me to be. Meals always punctual and nothing forgotten, no noisy maids ever heard. I think now you had better alter it to no noisy children ever heard.

I'm afraid I may never be what you would call a perfect housewife but I hope I may have skill and spirit and wisdom to make a happy home for every one at the Halt. I suppose it depends more on me than any one else though every member makes a lot of difference to the happiness of his or her companions.

I want you for so many things dear, it would be much easier and jollier to move in together would it. I am beginning to be very much afraid that you will not be here to help

me. I have sent for pattern of velvet to make a thick curtain to cover the door in the nursery that leads into the roof because there was always such a draft through it. I can't make up my mind whether to have an orange red or a dark crimson red more like more like your new velvet curtain in your mess. Well I just want you for all the these things but much more to have you yourself.

I have had a letter from you this evening. I am glad you are better from your 'flu I hope you will soon be quite well. I think it's simply beastly for you having to live with people who get drunk. Oh I hope you will get out of it soon I wonder what you will make your lecture about I hope you will enjoy it. I'm still a wee bit afraid they may want to take you for educating the army, but I don't suppose they have sufficient initiative.

It would be such jay dear to be with you and to talk to you my whole self seems to be

be staying to jump across the gap to you. I really think of and hope for your return too much because it makes it almost impossible for me to settle to other things. My whole mind is waiting for you in expectation.

I had a very nice letter from Ka today that I will try to remember to enclose to you. She says they won't come here to stay for just yet which is disappointing but I expect she is quite right. And then they will come later when you are home and that will be much nicer.

I don't think Oscar's illness made any difference to going to The Holt only they just did not seem to be able to get out sooner. I told Mary Anne that we wanted to get in before the 14th - now I suppose we shall go in on the 14th which will make too little time to settle in before you are back.

I am longing to be there with you although I do not enjoy the packing and moving part much.

I must now close and try to prepare for my next study circle meeting. It will be horrid not to have Mary Anne at it.

Your very loving

Ruth.

10 Lancaster Place

Strand. W.C. 2

Jan. 3rd 1918.

Dear Ruth

We are so happy to hear about George's approaching return. (My inquiries via Ministry of Labour had come to a sort of *cul-de-sac* - & I was rather hopelessly wondering how to proceed!)

It is good news. I suppose one doesn't hope he's arrived already.

How I wish we'd seen your Christmas tree - Christmas is so different & alive a festival if there are children. We took my small sisters down to

Basset down with us - which
was great fun - but they're
~~too~~ old to be really excited!

I don't think Ruth - we
shall get down to see you -
much as we'd love to - which
you know.

Will gets 'quit' of his office
work at the end of this week -
but they won't let him resign
his commission as he still
has to write a history for the
Admiralty & may have to go
to Paris later. So we're just
going to make off. (to Cornwall)
as soon as we can - in case
he is called back - & so we're
not going to make any plans
further ahead than that.

Will has been rather seedy again
& very tired - so that I feel
the thing is to get off while
we may & not bother about
what happens after. If he
can get fit again & begin
his own work - (I dictate
his history to me in the evenings!)
he'll be up to anything in
a few weeks.

So don't think us ungrateful
& horrid - I know you won't
though - & the blessed thing
is that I know we may ask
to come later on - & how
the war's over - one can make
plans like that!

If I can let the flat - & tidy up
we may be off the end of next
week - so if by any chance you
come up to meet George - ^{before then} you'll

both of you come - woult you?
I think Will goes off anyway
next week - I'm so anxious
he should go at once - &
I rather enjoy packing up
& arranging things -

So perhaps when you next
see us - Will will be grown
fat & pink! & altogether what
he should be!

Salute George - It is the best
of news - (& so sensible of the
W.O.!)

Yours ever
Ka.

