

? 3 Nov. 1917



OFFICERS' MESS,

T LINES,

AVINGTON PARK CAMP,

WINCHESTER.

Saturday,

My dearest Ruth, This is very sad but there is no way out of it. An order came in last night stopping all leave - recalling all on leave at present. It is just one of the periodical scares I expect, but its altogether too dangerous to go away. We shall probably have a beat-up to night - G Scheme they call it; - the infantry march up onto the hills & we have to look as though we could fire our guns - which would



be difficult without ammunition.

No sign of a movement order yet. I'm getting impatient. We shall have little enough time to live together as it is.

It seems to me I'm very busy these days. Yesterday I finished off Hope - with an infinite number of small alterations - they do take time. It's as good as I can make it now without altogether re-writing it - rather too much of a sermon for my present taste, but I don't altogether condemn it. My

difficulty now is that if I'm to send the new version to Jelli, as she asked, I shall have to make a copy for myself & merely copying it out will take two or three hours.

Meanwhile I am getting on to my Alpine Club article again & have spent a busy morning with that. Last night I hated it & was in despair; but I have now decided that if I cut out a whole host of pure Henry James phrases I can make it do. But it's very long & will take about 15 pages in the Journal.

I went into Winton yesterday evening, called on the Maitland.

How would you like me to go there with a battery? I should prefer it
to any where else. All my love to you & dearrest. Your loving George.

(the people who put up Jelli when she came here) & went on to the bookseller to try & get a Xmas present for Robin Garbutt - but that quest was unsuccessful & only ended in my purchasing some books for myself - the two last H. James's & two Thomas Hardy's. And I came away without getting my hair cut as I intended. Last night I dined with Dr Browne in his Mess, but he had to go off afterwards & I spent the evening by my own fireside.

My love to Aileen if she is still with you & to the L.A.T's.

I'm much agitated by the possibility on the Skolian front. I doubt if the Huns will get much further - but they've done about enough damage.