

Monday Aug 21

(96)

My dearest

It has been very nice all yesterday and today being able to think of you away from the fighting and in peaceful country. The news today is very good we do seem again to have made another very successful push forward. I shall be pleased when Thiepval falls as I suppose it must presently, we seem to be alone it now and that ought to make a good deal of difference. I wonder if it is just possible that the Germans will be sick of it this autumn. I don't think it is. I have been in the garden this morning collecting seed of Sicily poppies and making a list of the perennials that I want to put into my garden next this autumn. So far I have put down Flox, Borage, mint, Valea, ion, Cat, mint, Penstemon, lupin, and red Labellia. Also there is a white flower that I don't know the name of, it is something pleasant, we usually call it just pearl. Flox + Penstemon are underlined on the list because I know you specially like them. Do you remember



that I told you last summer that I thought  
we could not have perstemon because I thought  
they were difficult to grow and had to be  
brought on in the green house. Well I find I  
am mistaken which is a jolly good thing  
they are perennials so we have only got to  
get some roots and put them in. I am  
going to get what I can from this garden  
but Father says it may not be much  
because we shall not have time to dig up  
the borders this year.

It's a lovely day here, and Doctor Husley's  
wife & children are coming over from  
Enton to tea, I expect we shall go on  
the river afterwards.

It does seem enormous that we can attack  
on a front of eleven miles. I would like  
to know how the Germans are feeling  
but they don't seem to tell them a word  
of truth. Still the soldiers themselves  
must know that Flers has been taken  
back for instance, and it must depress them.  
I wish dear that there was not so much  
that you may not say. It is apt to  
make your letters difficult to follow.



For instance that you could not tell me about  
the battery dividing and moving forward  
was muddling. Now you are away from it  
do you think you could tell me exactly  
what was happening to the battery when  
you left. I wonder if this new gain on our  
part will make any difference to you. I hope  
it won't mean that you have to go back  
to the fighting sooner, I should like you to  
have a nice long ~~time~~ rest.

Adrian Harding has already got some enlargements  
of baby stuck up outside. I don't mind  
now she is only a baby but I ~~should~~ <sup>shall</sup> not  
like it when she is a biggish girl.

Mildred says the butter has turned out  
better this week but I suppose it's not  
much good smelling you things were you  
are now is it? I have a cake ready but  
I simply don't know what to do about  
packing it

Baby has just woken up. She has slept for  
a good hour and a half but I should have  
liked her to have two hours better.

I did quite a nice bit more of my bowl  
yesterday, while Clara played on the  
floor, she is getting very good at amusing



herself now. Most of her time she spends in  
throwing her toys away from her and then  
reaching & reaching to get them back again.  
She is wonderful the way she does it too.

This letter is written more tidily, isn't it, than  
mine ~~ones~~ generally are but then I am writing  
on the table and not on my knee and that  
makes it easier. I think I will try to make  
them more tidy in future, it is more satis-  
fatory.

Do you want these U.D.C. papers. They keep sending  
a lot here. If you do I will always send  
you one, if you don't you might ask  
them to stop sending them. I have just  
looked through some of this one. The only  
point of any use in it seems to me to be  
that if we are to head and unpeaceful to  
Germany we shall strengthen the hand of the  
extreme war party. I suppose if we intend  
to conquer and crush this will not matter,  
but shall we ever?

Baby is making rather a fuss to be taken  
out of her room so I suppose this letter  
must stop.

My dearest I send you so much love and kisses  
yours loving Ruth.