

Thursday Sept 28

My own dearest

Your letter that I had yesterday had been hung up these days by the censor it was written two days before the one I got the day before yesterday. That is why I said you had said nothing about M<sup>r</sup> East. Now you say in a postscript or just at the end of your letter that you have already by now I suppose ordered a book costing £50 you say do I mind but I am afraid this letter will not get to you in time to prevent you. I think I do mind. I don't see that we have any more right to go spending large sums of money on books than I. have on clothes. I am trying very hard to be economical and its not encouraging to have you spend £50 without even seriously consulting me. I had hoped that if I was careful we might be able to get a piano when Polly takes her away but we cant have every thing. If you prefer the book to a piano or a climbing holiday I have it a word to say because in that case I would like you to have it I have not seen the book myself, but we cant have it all ways I am quite sure that now we ought to try to save both for our children's sake and for the sake of the country. Cant you stop buying it till you come back on leave and we can talk it over. I dont want you to think

me cross or silly dear but I am so sure that our only comfortable happy way of living ~~not~~ can be to live carefully within our income and save when opportunity comes. After the war saving will not be at all easy with such very heavy taxes and we may get another child. As they get older they will get more & more expensive.

I am sorry for poor Mr Earl he does sound to be having a most uncomfortable time, I don't wonder he is not enjoying life much. I do hope when you move you forward into new dug outs you will get comfortable ones. I suppose you may go forward into the German underground places, they always sound very rooing from the accounts in the papers.

Mr Ricardo had drawn from a rough sketch of a tank and the door one for us, they must be funny looking things. I can't quite understand how the tail steers them, but I don't wonder the Germans felt frightened. I wonder how long it will be before the Germans will find some way of doing for them. They may get an enormous piercing shell.

~~As~~ I told you that we went to Guildford with Mrs Brock in the morning, in the afternoon it rained a lot but it cleared sufficiently for me to take baby to the dressmaker to have her little coat made. Miss

Robinson captured over her. What am I going to do when she can understand and people do that. Violet's consolation is that perhaps she will be less pretty by then. I don't know that that would please me very much.

I am going to see Mrs Kenway this afternoon, if they are not too hard to carry I shall bring back some rock prints for our garden walls. If they are very heavy I must wait till I take baby out in the pony cart some day.

The breakfast bell. I must go down and see the news.

The news is all right. Mrs Brock <sup>said</sup> says this morning that she wondered that we had not heard more of the tanks in this last bit of advance, the taking of Comble & Thiepval. I wonder if they are as successful as we were told at first.

Darling do you think you will come back in November still. I shant arrange anything for you to do unless you ask me to. I do want you to enjoy yourself entirely I am sure you will a lot.

I do hope you have not found any more lice.

Dearest I send you kisses

Your very loving  
Ruth.