

My dearest Ruth

Aug. 12/1916

I find myself quite exceptionally busy. Plan is to have an operation & we can't expect him back for a couple of months I suppose. Bell is away for four days rest; & we have three new officers. Meanwhile Littlejohn has been unwell - a slight chill - & has taken two days in bed; - so that in all I find myself quite in possession of the battery & running round after a lot of little things which Littlejohn usually looks to him self. Of the new officers the first Dubdar another Scot! is a solid little person, rather slow & puzzled but modest & sensible; a bachelor aged 26; the second Wood comes from University College London where he lectures on English - a mild scholar who will probably find this job distasteful; I took him to the trenches yesterday; he seems to have too little vitality for my taste & is not so interesting as he ought to be - somewhat lacking in vitality; he is married & looks under 30. The third who turned up yesterday rather displeased me at first; he has had experience with a 60 pr. battery & seems a rather pushing individual; he has a rather low type of face; he has curly black hair which comes very low down on the forehead, parted in the middle & grainily brushed back, & thick lips; a keen energetic fellow, & that's a great thing. I liked him better this morning.

flex & debias - what a mixture
of joy it would be
The & Dunbar ~~go~~ off to the trenches.

The 'rest cure' I alluded to is a great invention -
Two detachments at a time go off to spend four
days in a delightful country place; I father my
turn will come next, so that I ought to leave here
the night after next. I shall enjoy it I don't doubt.
And I have a design upon Amiens Cathedral.

It will be an occasion for writing to you at leisure.
If only you could come & meet me there! But all
that sort of thing was knocked on the head long ago:
the civilians were too much of a nuisance for the
military authorities. This is a dead hot day.

I am sitting in the shade of my dug-out; my flowers
smell delicious & I am really quite pleased to be
here. This afternoon I shall probably sleep - to make
up for last night when I was on duty in the
map-room & had very little.

Are you still intending to visit the East Coast? If so
please choose a place well armed with anti-Zepp guns.
I suppose the Hun is about reaching his maximum
hate now. I am very pleased about the fall of
Gorizia; it makes the Austrian situation decidedly
worse, because more men will now be required to
defend that front. I wonder if you could
make me a pot pourri? My flowers have suggested what