

My dearest Ruth,

Aug. 18. 1916

Here I am in the rest camp. The whole arrangement, as you may have gathered from my last, was postponed - & then suddenly fixed up again. We started off the night before last. I am wonderfully content - or at least I was so yesterday - there was some worry in fixing up billets in the morning: but in the afternoon I lay idly in a lovely field & after tea walked into one of two convenient valleys. It was a perfect day. There was corn standing & corn in sheaves all over the rolling country & a valley full of trees. The clouds were deliciously fresh in the pleasant breeze. You may imagine how I sought the stream which I knew must be winding somewhere among the green glades, how suddenly I came upon it across a green track all clear & inviting - & all the rest.

I wondered when I felt so divinely happy what the further bliss of your presence could have done or what sort of joy I should feel if I were at home with you - my belief is that when that does happen I shall simply burst with overfulness. But on the other hand it seemed wondrously cruel that under these

Circumstances you should not be with me. You only
you could come! I have no idea how long I
shall be here - a fortnight, a week, a month even
have all been named. Half the battery is here while
half a new battery learns the hang of things with
the half remaining. Little you is coming here
to-day to be Camp Commandant of R.G.A. & I
understand that I am to be his order officer.
Until I see how that circumstance may affect
my freedom my captures are as to spare muckering
time. There will probably be some damned nonsense
about parades & drills. I shall achieve a
moder vivendi sufficiently enjoyable I hardly
doubt. I must now go & see if the mail
is in & if a letter has come from you; they are
very irregular just now & I haven't had a letter for
three days.

Letter. I went up to our A.S.C. people (ammunition
column) for lunch. I have arranged to mess with
them & found two Co. Thesians mess by whom
I was quite glad to meet. It is rather pleasant coming
across folk that way & very interesting to see
faces from school under a khaki cap & in the

written of their work - one gets a much better idea
of what they are really like than if one were to meet
them on a visit to Chouse. I came back here

& found a gorgeous mail - three priceless letters from
you besides a separate letter from Graves, one from
Allen & one from Mother. It has turned out a wet
afternoon - great disappointment - & I am sitting
in my tent - very happily however. I shan't expect
Lithgow till I see him as I have learnt of circum-
stances I can't explain. You must excuse me for
being mysterious - I am constantly learning out
all sorts of things but you'll understand that I
can't for instance tell you at the time that only
half the battery is moving - till long after the event
- but you'll infer that.

I missed Robert's name in the casualty lists - I look
at them in the weekly Times but I believe one
week I didn't see it. He must have had a lucky
escape. He is a nice creature; but I'm disap-
pointed in his poems & wish he hadn't published
them - not that I don't personally want quite a
number of them - but it would have been
better for his reputation to wait.

The post is due out soon, so I shan't go on
writing to you now. It's a dull letter I fear.
I've just heard that Lithgow is coming to-day.

The prospect which I have most in mind is
a visit to Amiens; I am very keen to see the
Cathedral. And if it clears up this evening
as it well may I shall visit a lovely lake which
is fixed up for bathing - diving boards etc.
I want to make a practice of bathing there
before breakfast & feeding in a Folnet farm
house afterwards - if I can find one!!!

All my love dearest - a great thanks for
your loved letters. I shall read them again in
bed to night - & write something in reply -

Your loving George.

