

GM/11/IV

[1918] Saturday 28th Sept

My dearest Ruth, I fear you may be two or three days without letters from me as I addressed the last two to B'head - I rather fancied you would be likely to stay there over the week-end when you found yourself in media re, as the Latins would say - but that I in any wise disapprove your decision as I quite expect you ought to get home. You won't imagine have seen anything of Avie, which is a pity; I've no doubt you were kept busy at St John's Vic & have been a great blessing there. I'm glad you went & glad I didn't urge you. I hope you understand my reluctance to decide for you, as I think at some moments you would like me to do; if either of us can put a consideration that hasn't occurred to the other we naturally mention it; for that husband & wife ought to set upon each other

in doubt & difficulties: but not for decisions.
I believe in the principle of Vernon Whitford & think
it as important for husband & wife to retain
their moral independence as for other people.
However there is no fear that you won't do that
nor I na plus.

Yesterday was a good day. I found a letter
from you at the Club in the morning &
another came here (in consequence of an
arrangement I made at the P.O.) in the
evening. Yes - I'm quite delighted to
hear of events in the Balkans & in Palestine. We read
the first news from Gen. Allenby together
& didn't we & the hopes of them have been
fulfilled. The defeat of Bulgaria is more
important at present as it would involve
the railway to Constantinople; it's a question
of moral I expect; if they really stuck to it
I doubt if we could force a way to Sofia though
they have been badly whacked already; but perhaps
they won't stand the music & then the whole

Eastern policy of Germany would inevitably collapse. We had only the bare news yesterday of ^{the} American advance of 11 kilometers - which sounds a good start, particularly as an attack was expected in those parts. It looks rather as though the preliminary attacks on the Hindenburg line are intended primarily to fix the Hun reserves. However we shall know a lot more in a month's time. I dreamt last night of someone telling me the war would be over in 2 weeks; but even in a dream I couldn't swallow that optimism.

I spent most of yesterday on the shore - a glorious day. I took three men to ply football there in the ~~at~~ morning & in the afternoon we had sports. They were a great success & very amusing: - 1st event; the starters stood to attention & at the blast of a whistle began to undress; when nude they ran to the sea & rolled in it & came back. 2nd event - a Splash Race, run in about 2 feet of water

these were three heats - about half the men
tumbled full length in the water. The winner
in the final fell twice. 3rd event; - 400 yds
race - quite a good race, the last 250 yds down
wind & all on beautiful firm sand. It was
lovely to watch. 4th Three Legged Race. The course
involved an obstacle in the shape of a low
sand dune which had to be circumvented.
The leading pair came down a steep bank of sand
in the most magnificent fashion but lost
their balance & collapsed. The men were greatly
pleased by this race & a most unlikely looking pair
won. 5th Cockfighting on horseback. The
Major mounted Wilson & Pemberton Knibbs
& after a most stirring contest the first two
were defeated. Then the men joined in & had
great sport. In the 2nd round I mounted &
carried on Pemberton & Knibbs; we
had a good fight which was evidently very
amusing; it was said that I was "in for
blood" but ^{the} not conscious of having done more than
presented a resolute face to an opponent who
knew all the tricks of the game - & it was a

game I had never played before. In the end we crashed down together but he was bitten so I was victor though it must have been most unpleasant for me to bury my face in the sand & for him to hit it with the back of his head. 6th event - Steeplechase.

This ought to have been a very fine race, the course went up a short steep sand bank along a crest, down one side of a formidable gully & up the other & after a descent from that involving ~~some~~ spectacular leap a final scramble up a 20 ft slope of very steep loose sand. But they were not a very fine lot of competitors, they quickly became exhausted & showed very little dash in descending steep places.

We had a final event, after I had had a private event with the Major up the aforesaid steep bank & kept down it in two great strides from lightness of heart;

an ascent & descent of the same bank.
Altogether the men greatly enjoyed themselves
or so did I or I was very glad my entertainment
went so well. Such is war.

I must write no more now or I shan't
catch the post.

My love to all at Westbrook, especially
your father. We know our
destination & it is highly satisfactory;
a pretty place I believe.

Great love to you my dearest one.

George.

