

Jan. 19. 1916

Weymouth.

Dearest Ruth

Thank you very much for (1) mittens which are excellent (2) Towels & (3) calling cards. No letter - but I must not expect that every day - nor must you. When the working hours are over we have a rather long meal - say 7.15 to 8.15 or even 8.30; we make a rule for sociability for this meal alone & one goes out before a duly appointed president & Men rises. I'm still like my companions very well & increasingly. Yesterday an old acquaintance turned up - my first tutor in College at Winchester to whom, my first term, I used to take the insupportable problem of life. They're a very intelligent crowd altogether & mostly gentle. We're all to be examined at the end & if I come out half way down I shall be happy. However, at present, the tests are largely physical & in spite of my weak side (right) as it chiefly is now I've come off fairly well - I'm more active than most men & consequently quicker - the authorities like that. To-day we 'loaded' against time, I was one of the two loaders & we did well; Major Clarke was supervising & the fun & I was one of the two who have actually to lift the shells & put them in the breech - it sounds easy enough, but it's very

difficult to do well - because if you don't stand exactly
right & keep your eye on the breach while some other
bloke hits you in the belly with the cast-rod which
you've got to stick in immediately the rammer shoves
rammed home the ~~rod~~^{shell} life, you get in the way
& probably get hurt; it's not very easy either to do
neatly & quickly with a 100 lb. weight. Anyway at the
end of our go Clarke at once pushed to me & said
'Jouisevery good' - so I am rather pleased with
myself tonight.

This morning we had lectures
from 8.30 to 11.30 & were in the drill hall
loading & standing about till 12.30 - there
again 2.0 to 4.30 & a lecture 5.45 to 6.55.
It's the racket & standing about that most men
find tiring. Yesterday was much easier; -
learning to identify stores & tie knots. I'm
rapidly getting certain lights as to the army -
but I must leave that till another day or
night, or perhaps when we meet; it's infin-
itely amusing & in some parts incredibly childish.

By the way - & this will amuse you - I had
the honor yesterday of a reputation for
mechanical skill. How your father would

sett at this!

About your plans - I've written to Miss Whittaker (though I'm not sure if that's the woman's name), Bockhampton, near Dorchester & told her to fix up all with you direct. I suggested to her originally that 30/- a week might be a fair price for rooms & her services; & I've now suggested that we should have a trial week or fortnight, after which either you or she could break.

I've learnt tonight by heart a list of what the nine numbers at the gun & 4 others have to carry as (to use a theatrical term) 'hand props' - an incredible number & such words - The amount chafed upon one's memory each day is truly alarming - but yesterday's list was like eating toffee to me; all about spars & guns & captains & handspike & skidding & sleighs & parbuckling & —
I could go on another half page - just all

the things I've really been wanting to know
all my life.

Well, Good Night beloved - I'll write
to you shortly - Friday or at length on
Saturday. I hope you're happy; you seem
to be. Give them my love at Westbrook -
ever so much to yourself you dear dear Ruth

Yours loving,
George.