



OFFICERS' MESS,
T LINES,

AVINGTON PARK CAMP,
WINCHESTER.

Sept. 3 1917

My dearest Ruth, I've now had two letters from you. I can well imagine that you now feel the waiting time has begun. If I were you I should read novels all day. I'm glad to hear that Ursula has got hold of Miss Street, but it's a pity from that point of view that she's not staying longer; I was delighted by your description of Clare's behaviour. As your first letter found its way here I hope the garters may follow suit; but alas! the prospect of sitting on the downs

was utterly shattered; ~~by the~~ an
~~order~~ order came in a few days
ago (the Colonel I suppose can't
have heard of it when he sug-
gested I should ride) prohibiting
the use of riding horses by sub-
alterns - so the only plan
of mounting a horse would
be to receive instruction in
the riding school with the men
- which might perhaps be worth
while, but is a far less attractive
proposal. I told you that
I made this out as essentially
a loafing job - but it is not

a job in any sense of the word.
This morning I passed a certain
amount of time in finding out
what was going on in the camp.
Evidently it will be possible to
pass a certain amount of time
that way; but it is in no sense
a duty. All I found to do that
was in any wise obligatory was
to watch some horses drinking.
I think I may say that I now know
how horses ought to drink & don't
expect to find a repeated or perhaps
interest in supervising the perform-
ance. Anyway it is properly an
N.C.O.'s job & it appears there is
no compulsion for me to appear
on parade at all - though, and

it is characteristic of the army, none
in authority has attempted to
explain to me what my position is
I have received no orders. Perhaps
later I shall be put on a 'course'
there was one which finished
recently & there may be another.
But that prospect doesn't exactly
thrill me.

I don't think
I've ever made clear to you the
difference between Heavy Art. &
Siege. From the point of view of
organisation they are both called
H.A., as you know from my
address in France when I was
with the staff & from the point
of view of the regiment both are
R.G.A. But from the point of
view of gunnery 'heavies' are
60 pounders & nothing else



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whereas 'siege' are all howitzers
except a few batteries of 6 in guns.
I expect one could learn all that
is required about the 60 pounder
in a very short time but the
great new thing to me is horse
transport - a battery has 120
or 130 horses & you imagine
what a nuisance they must
be in France.

The last part of my walk yester-
day was most lovely. Chesilton
- a village I passed on the way -
is a beautiful place & from
there I had a glorious walk

over the hills getting in about
8:0 p.m. I must have walked
about 22 miles yesterday which
is not bad for crook like me -
my ankle feels stupid to-day as
result - still the great thing
is to be able to do it. The massage
business by the way is a complete
wash-out; the doctor to start
with didn't know, when I
raised the point what I meant
by ionization; he said 'that's
a treatment with a hot iron
'I suppose' & eventually he gave
me some lotion to rub it myself

I can't know what I ought to
do next; I'm sure that the
electric treatment would bring
it really right & if it doesn't
get completely healed it may
always go wrong again.

I'm feeling very lazy to-day. But
I think I shall probably have
the energy after tea to find a
sequestered spot - there commit
myself in some way on paper.
Please be quick & get Elwin born
& get well quickly afterwards -
then we may be able to live
together.

I've asked Arrie to spend a
week-end with me on her way

to or from Bournemouth. But I
don't suppose she'll choose this
next one in which case I shall
certainly spend it with you -
probably one night without
leave - that seems to be the
custom here.

I can't understand how my
pouch vanished the other day.
I found it in the billiard room
where I had left it overnight
& filled my pipe - that was just
before going out to ^{cut} the trees.

Love to you all.

Your loving
George -

