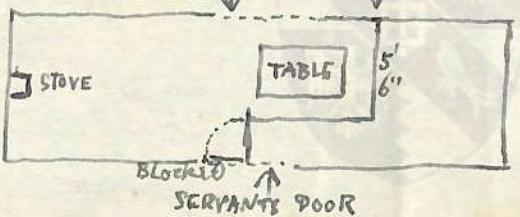
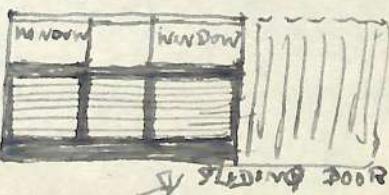


Oct. 6. 1918 1

My dearest Ruth, Russians first. We want curtains for our mess. These are 5 windows $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. 5 in wide $\times 2\frac{1}{3}$ " high. We have painted our ceiling & the top half of our walls white - I think a blue, or blue & red would be best for curtains. The Haskinsense genre would look very well - are they outrageously expensive? We needn't be very economical. Casement cloth would do but I would rather have something more interesting. The mess is getting on. We have put Hessian canvas round the lower half of the walls - dull stuff, the colour of sackcloth - it is in fact - superior sackcloth. but I hope we shall relieve that feature somewhat by a device for treating it as panels.

Ruth & I brought back our kitchen range - a very handy affair; the cook & steward are to occupy one end of the truck which we have partitioned off. I'll try & draw you a plan of the mess

PLANELEVATION

We haven't yet settled as to the place of the table; I'll have put it in the most likely place, though there is little room there; the idea is to leave plenty of room to get round the fire. The windows when they are shut are just sheets of iron painted white - very ugly. I have tried to give an idea of the proposed panels - the ribs of wood with organic painting. You will see that we have practically got rid of one sliding door by blocking one end of it & throwing the other with the servants' quarters. The other slides towards the partition - we may hang a curtain over half of it.

A very noisy engine has just passed amidst our united execrations - a very typical incident of our life, which apart from such noises is very peaceful after the day's work with hammers saws & paintbrushes in our. Our sleeping quarters are necessarily less glorious - as one really requires more space in a dormitory less comfortable. The other four have each a bed in a corner; but mine lies along one of the sliding doors - rather a draughty place. I have shelves fitted between the door jambs if that sort of door has a jamb. This morning while I was still in bed some stranger had the impudence to mount the foot board & begin putting my door

3

with the resultt that the whole structure of my shelves was threatened - we actually fell. His further action was prevented by a deaf tenant from word spoken in time or hardly.

I am sending you back the proofs of my photos - not a good lot I think; there's a lack of modelling in most cases. I think the best face is the one with the most body, and it is the worst picture. Otherwise there seems little to choose between them. It doesn't matter what you order so long as the cost comes up to £1; you might have 2 or 3 larger ones or perhaps simply two enlargements. I don't think they'd be good enough for distribution.

The difficulty I have about writing to you - & indeed about life in general at present is the lack of solitude. I could of course stay up late, & would do if it were warmer or if I hadn't a cold - however both those conditions will speedily be remedied.

Well, when we get our men fixed up you
shall have some better letter.

Great love to you my dearest one -

Yours lovingly George.

