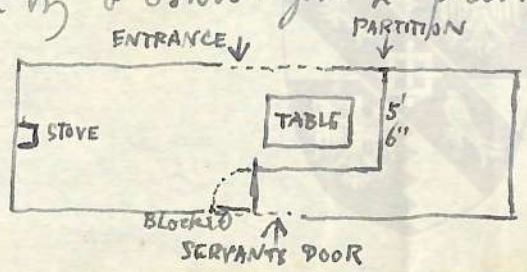


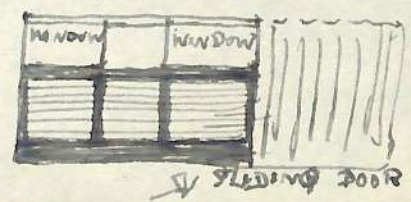
Oct. 6. 1918 1

My dearest Ruth, Business first. We want curtains for our mess. These are 5 windows 2'3" wide x 2'3" 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 Haslemere 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 sackings - it is in fact a superior sackings: but I hope we shall achieve that feature somewhat by a device for treating it as panels. Knith & 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. Will try & draw you a plan of the mess

PLAN



ELEVATION



We haven't yet settled as to the place of the table; I 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 exquisite painting. You will see that we have practically got rid of one sliding door by blocking one end of it & throwing the other into 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 round our united excretions - a very typical incident of our life, which apart from such noises is very peaceful after the day's work with hammers saws & paintbrushes is over. 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 impertinence to mount the foot board & begin pulling my door

well, when we get our men fixed up you
shall have some better letters.

Great love to you my dearest one -

Yours loving
George.