

Magdalen Hospital

Oct. 13. 1917

My dearest Ruth, My mail has just now come in while I was having tea - I've been wanting it all day, but as my servant didn't bring it as I asked him I had eventually to request a man from here to fetch it. And now it has come it is a good mail - a nice long letter from you, a book & a letter from David and the New Europe. I was feeling rather demoralised this morning & have spent most of the time reading a novel by Galsworthy - poor stuff it is; he has such taking to pot-boiling & fear. The design of your new dress attracts me; it looks nicely finished off round the waist - I hope Miss Robinson will get that right. You have no doubt found out that you didn't send me the patterns - perhaps after all you didn't trust me to send them back - however you can decide very well without me. You are intending to have a dark dress I suppose? If so it will be difficult to get much contrast with the fur - but why not dark green? You say nothing about colour.

I'm very glad my kit has turned up at last & you did well to select what I am likely to want & send it on - I shall be glad of both bed & chair when I get back to the hut. Did my ^{field} glasses come all right? I shan't have a chance of opening the valise for some days though the station here have notified its arrival. To-day I ought to be with

David tells me he is going to leave Will because Mincher Bone according to a previous unfulfilled arrangement is going to live with him. Red huck isn't it - he'll be sorry. Great love to you dearest - Involving Ruth.

me - but I harden myself against the idle passion of remorse. The weather looks more like picking up - you ought to have a fine weekend. I am much moved by all we hear these anxious days from France - attacking under those conditions is desperate work & evidently the position west of Porschaendael is so bad that the only course is to attack & drive them off the last high ground which they can use to observe our movements on the western slopes. I think we probably shall succeed & it will cost least to make the sacrifices at once. But the effort of these last two attacks must have been exhausting & I wonder if we can make another without a long delay.

I don't attach great importance to the meeting in the German way for its own sake. But it does show what hungry people will do & it has embittered differences of opinion in Germany; however I'm not at all sure that the impression left won't be as much detrimental to the Minority Socialists, who will appear to have gone too far, as prejudicial to Michaelis & the Pan-Germans.

The foot seems ^{not} much better today than yesterday - I have periodical fomentations but don't much believe in them. The wound still oozes slightly - it is really I suppose a very bad bruise which unlike bruises has a channel by which it can blow itself off instead of keeping a tender mite - it is absolutely painless.