

[Sa 3 June 1916] (28)

Darling

I am unhappy, so I must come and talk to you. Its mostly this awful naval battle. There is no doubt we have had the worst of it, and we have always thought we should have the best of it on the sea. The Invincible is the ship Bob's brother George was on. I'm afraid he will be very cut up about it. Oh isnt it horrible. Just think of all the people who have opened the papers to learn that the people they love most are dead. Its too awful

Then dear last night I had two letters at once from you to say that you were moving you believed Southward to a hot spot at the line; and the next to say that you were on your way My dear I hope you wont stay there long. I fear you have gone near Verdun to help there, If the Germans consentate I suppose we must too. My dearest life does seem rather a nightmare today. Poor Mill isnt here she is staying with the Aunts and is coming back today.

You seem to me to be having a most wonderfully eventful life in France and to be seeing far more of things than people usually do.

Oh I do want you to have the best of it all and do it thoroughly. I would rather that than you were stuck at the back and did nothing but I am anxious. Darling I do love your letters, they are beautiful. I like what you say about resignation & I think I can easily imagine how happy it makes you feel. But I can't feel like that. I must pray & pray and hope and pray that your life will not be taken. I want your life so much for myself for baby and for the world.

Father says ^{this} war must teach us that a life is of little consequence; but it's got to be lived by many of us and it can't help seeming to us very long, although when we look back upon it from another life it may seem short enough. Oh how I wish this awful war would end!

Dearest, I have copied out all the new part of your last two letters to send on to your parents. I don't mind doing it at all it did not take very long. I believe I would rather do that and have your letters

just as they come. You could write the other way if you have heaps of time of course. But then you see I want to keep all your letters myself so that I can read them any time I like. I don't a bit want to send them off to town the country.

Suppose they should get lost. No; I think I would rather copy the news part for the others.

I feel a little less unhappy now I have told you about it; but news such we have just had of thousands of deaths and defeat cannot but make one feel pretty miserable. Then there is you going into greater danger.

I am very glad you have Mr. Bell with you and Captain Lithgow. It would have been horrid if you had been sent on with people you knew little of. But I suppose you are pretty sure to stick to them all through now.

I am sorry you have had to stop the boxes and motor wank. It is disappointing not to see things through.

When I know how long your journey took I shall try to get some idea

of how far you have gone.

I have been spending the morning in weeding, at least the chief part of it. I did not mean to spend so long at it but Father came out to so I had to stick to it. Now my hands are sore with nettle stings, there were such a lot of horrid little ones. Weeded three of the four beds in yew walks that the lillies grow in.

I am just going up to Paviors Field where we shall all be cheerful however sad we feel. And I do feel very sad about George Morgan and all the rest of them.

I am afraid you will think by this letter that I am being very gloomy, but I don't think I am in general only when I think about it I am sad and rather anxious.

Many kisses dear and very very much love. I wonder if I can love you more than I do.

Your loving
Ruth.