

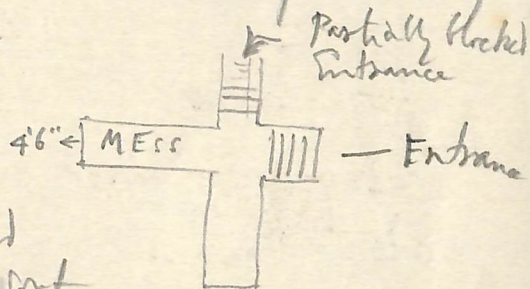
Oct 19. 1916.

My dearest Ruth, My hurried note yesterday morning omitted two things I meant to say. First as to the parcel of fruit - I went carefully over it & found pears & eating apples besides those I mentioned. The ripeness of which are excellent for eating also. Some of the fruit was a bit bruised but generally speaking it was in very good condition & all very good - quite a miraculous survival considering the state of the case. And then I never told you how much I approve of the cake boxes. We made excellent use of one for packing cups yesterday. Two more parcels arrived to-day - a cake as magnificent as usual and the lovely parcel in the cardboard box which also travelled very well. I'm particularly glad to have the fat pousse which will scent my depart & no doubt Carl will be delighted with his when I give it him as I easily can for his battery is quite near us & I continue to see him briefly from time to time. The prunes are very good but I think dearest it's hardly worth while sending them as I can purchase some at ~~Costa~~ & we seem to have ample opportunities at present. The moving of the officers to the battery has been

rather a gloomy performance. It was raining yesterday morning & then cleared. I did a lot of work on my dug-out & we practically completed the ~~whole~~ hole & got the wood & cupolas for the roof all ready; but that was as much as we could manage & I could get nothing to cover the hole for the night; I felt fairly happy about that because the wind had gone round to the North & there was every appearance of fine weather for a day or two. This morning early it began to rain heavily & to-day has been quite beastly. Luckily we have had no firing, but of course it has been impossible to get settled in. Meanwhile I am sleeping in our Mess Room - a good Hun dug-out. I will draw you a plan of it as the simplest way of explaining its shape etc.

It is completely lined with wood - floor included. We

have meals in the ash marked Mess & the other is used as a sort of pantry. Our long table & form is rather attractive in a way. The chief fault is the entrance above which is a lot of loose soil thrown up from a trench; this has been simply melting down the



staircase all day. Luckily the water hasn't penetrated very far - but the liquid mud on the stairs and men at the top of the flight is very disgusting. It has been sufficiently chilly all day too. We shall be comfortable enough here if we get some dry days.

I see a great deal of talk in the papers just now about Germany's food shortage - only hope it may be true; I can't much believe in it i.e. that they will actually come to starving this winter - but I suppose it may make a lot of difference & possibly hasten the end - if Roumania can hold out, that seems to be the great question now & that it should be put in that form is not very encouraging. I must say it is almost unbelievable that the Germans could still be strong enough to conquer Roumania & I'm inclined to think it's a gamble from which they are likely to lose.

Bell has just been awarded the Military Cross & will probably soon be a temporary Captain too - all of which is very satisfactory. I find myself rather dull to-night; so I shall now turn into my warm bed & hope to write a few more lines to-morrow morning.

Oct. 20. A very bright day & cold east wind.

we had a perceptible frost last night. Everything
is drying up & I shall be in my dug out
to night.

Very busy

Farewell & all my love to you my
dear, dear love -

Your loving George.

