

[1916]

Nov. 25. 1915.

My dearest Ruth, I'm rather busy, so you'll please be content with a little. The Captain has a new idea; he's come to the conclusion most of us reached some time ago that he does too much himself. Consequently we are to take weekly turns at doing the Battery Commandant's work. I have begun to-day. I am sitting in the Captain's dugout which he is to evacuate, in charge of the battery so far as any shooting is concerned, orders from Hqs. ammunition etc. Yesterday I went to the O.P.

- our proper one, at the front line. I took Dunbar's turn as I wanted to finish a job of preparing a map wanted by Hqs. showing dead ground. However the light was very bad so I didn't succeed in getting it all done. It was atrociously cold, so we set too a dugout most of the time. Some pleasant infantry fellows were occupying the trench. I distributed some food & afterwards we were allowed into the circle of a good fire which they had made under a flimsy roof of waterproof sheets & chatted comfortably for a time after lunch.

I have been occupied in making out the report of my reconnaissance (a voluntary stunt) - I think it's

interesting & may be useful.

My darling, I begin to have very little hope of leave in the near future; I have put the thought into the back ground where it was before. I had two letters from you yesterday. I hope with you that leave won't come about Xmas. I haven't found your letters at all till lately - much the reverse. I'm very glad Clara is better & it's splendid to hear of her standing - You won't let her get bandy-legged with you? I don't like crooked limbs.

The song books arrived the day before yesterday - they are quite excellent - just what I want & I am quite delighted to have them. We shall be quite diligent I hope now with music. Also a chocolate cake - very good please tell Mrs W. with special thanks for all her noble efforts.

Two days ago when I returned from working in the front line or rather communication trenches (the infantry had dry places) I had a hot bath - a real good one - the first since I've been out. It seems quite possible to indulge that desire so I propose to do so periodically.

Great love to you dearest. Your loving George

It's been soaking wet all day.