

Nov. 12. 1916.

My dearest Ruth, I seem to have been very busy since Lithgow departed. A very long & agreeable day at the O.P. two days ago. I got there at 8.45; it was too misty to observe so I set to work with the two signallers to make a proper place there for the F.O.O. We dug away like anything & I gradually discarded my upper clothes. Later on I was very busy ranging the guns, till about 4.0. Bell had arranged with me to send up a working party at dusk to carry on the job a mile through to take me to meet them in a neighbouring village at 5.0. I spent the romantic hours after sunset wandering about that amazing place. There is much more left of it than remains of Orthes or La Bourdelle or Poitiers or indeed of any of the villages in the strafed area that I have seen — & consequently it's much more interesting. It is a place all littered with bricks & timber intersected by one long road — or river of mud — I found an old German timber dump where we could take just the stores we wanted & then waited in the growing moonlight watching the infantry coming & going like busy Eden ants singularly ignorant of where they

were or where they were bound (most of the officers had lost their 'guides'). But my party didn't turn up & I found my way back alone through the mud enjoying the white mist under the moon as I had enjoyed it cussing in front of a red sky before the sun was up.

Yesterday, in the absence of the car I went off with Casey in a motor lorry to collect stores for the canteen. It proved a very lengthy performance & we weren't back here till sometime after dark. I found two letters from you, one from Raymond & one from Harold Porter. Raymond's letter was 'quite splendid' - his one regret that he hadn't been able to 'go over the top' with the Guards Division on the 15th when they were reduced to a Brigade. I hope you'll see him & perhaps I may too if I get leave next month. Nothing I understand is preventing regular leave but a lack of transport. Surely the authorities must get over that.

I was interested in your account of Johnstone - & rather disappointed - I thought he might have turned out more attractive than you describe him. I'm afraid Robert wouldn't tend to increase his modesty.

In ask about butter - but I received a parcel about a week ago with a liberal supply. Don't bother to be regular about that - just when there happens to be a surplus; we can generally buy it now when we want it, only it's very nice to get yours when it comes.

As to the Greens - have you received any rent? I've heard nothing of any since we were at New Romney. And I have a very strong impression that we left £17.10's worth of coal in our cellars. What of that? Will you please tell Taxworthy to do the needful with regard to your securities & mine such as they are.

No rain again to-day. We are in luck.

The letters are being collected now - so farewell dear love - till the day - it's rather nice that we can have our Des Tap.

Ever yours loving
George.

