

Oct 24

My dearest George

I am only beginning this letter after the children are in bed. Its Violet's day out. I spent all my spare time this morning making curtains. Mary Anne came to lunch which was very nice. We just sat about in the garden afterwards and she taught me a very good darning stitch & we played with the children, its hardly time to say we played with Clare, really she played by herself and utilised us to a certain extent as helpers. I do love her friendliness, she was simply darning with desire to go down and see Aunt Mary Anne after lunch. I hear that the beads I gave to Diana are a great success and that she does counting by them. I have read most of Sir Douglas Haigh's dispatch now. I shall finish it in bed tonight I expect. Don't you call this energetic I read for twenty minutes before I got up this morning & I got up at seven to do the cows. We were dreadfully near being beaten in that March push. I must say I do think that if Haig realised what a dangerous state our line was in & I suppose he

did though I don't think it is quite clear from the dispatch. Well if he did I think that if he had represented strongly to Lloyd George for the danger that somehow they could have got more men over either from America or England. The only reports we heard before the push were of the absolute confidence of the army. I expect that was the right spirit for it, but it should not make the commanders unreasonably confident. It must have been the best spirit or our men could not have been so wonderfully strong and brave as they were. George dear I am so enormously impressed with the bravery of the people of this present time. The world can never have seen so much unselfish bravery before. It shows that civilisation does not degenerate people but only makes them stronger and finer.

I have heard from Aunt Eleanor that she can have me for Monday & Tuesday nights so I shall go. I must now think about getting all I can into the time. I should like to see Will & Ka.

I am quite thrilled at the idea of the P.M. coming and lunching in your mess some time. I hope

he won't get out to France before you have got all your customs up. Your men will look much smarter then.

I sewed on nearly six doz rings last night & I have eight doz more to sew on. They are dear little rings ought to run nicely on copper wire.

I am very interested in that History of Our Own Times that I am reading. It is really a history of Queen Victoria's reign. I never knew before what a fine man Prince Albert was. Things like the Albert memorial put one off so.

Mr Clutton Brock says that he does not think the war can possibly last more than six months. but suppose we get them back to the Rhine they might hold out there some time if they could get their people to do it. They are so tremendously long suffering that they might do almost any thing.

Mary Anne's sister is still in Russia and they have heard absolutely nothing of her since last April. I should think there are more chances that she is not alive than that she is. Terrible scourges of illness have swept through Petrograd and she was there when they last heard of her. She would not come away because she was so very

interested in revolutions. She studied the French Revolution
at Oxford and was very keen to see one going on
I expect she saw quite as much as she wanted to
of it. All the money she had was there and of
course its all gone.

I am sorry to have to make this letter short but
I must write to Doris Mallory & Mona tonight.
Good night darling I send you ever ever so much
love and I do so hope the war will be over &
you will come back soon.

Your very loving
Ruth

