

Monday Oct 2

My dearest George

I do think much a lot about your leave. You dont know the least bit more when you will get it I suppose do you? I know it will be horrible when you go back but it will be miles better than not to have had you at all. Half a year is a terribly long time to be without a person. There is no doubt that the longer the war lasts the worse it gets and the longer you are away the worse it gets. And I think Mildred feels the same because although Bob is quite safe she often looks & seems depressed and unhappy. I am sure their last leave with Father there all the time was a great mistake I dont believe Mildred enjoyed it at all properly, and so she did not come back the better for it. I simply cant think how Father can have been so stupid.

We saw the Williams family yesterday, they are very plucky they were all managing to look quite cheerful. If Violet's Mother does not come today I shall go over to Guildford with them this afternoon. Constance said they were going to try to go a good deal this week and she seemed as though she would feel glad if we went too. I expect they want to keep themselves occupied and in a cheerful surroundings as much as they can.

Violet's Mother is staying at Portsmouth and so she is coming for the day either today or tomorrow to see her.

I said I thought she had better come on Monday if its fine and otherwise on Tuesday. So far its raining pretty steadily.

The Clutton Brocks came to tea yesterday and I dont know how it came up but Majorie said they could have a goose if they could catch one so they went off to town and after a very long time they succeeded and ~~she~~ ^{they} brought the goose up but although M^{rs} Brock thought they could manage it at home M^r Brock very wisely put his foot down and said he did not think the goose would be at all happy away from the others so finally they left it behind. I hope he wasnt annoyed, they enjoyed catching it very much.

I have not yet done any more in my garden but the foats have not come and so nothing is being dug up I am going with the poney cart this week to see the Kenways and then I shall bring back and plant all the pinks they have brought on for us. They must be getting quite big we ought to have had them last autumn.

Mosula is going today. I have enjoyed her being here very much. she's a nice person to talk to and sympathetic. I think they are a very fine family. She was telling me yesterday of her sister. The one who married and is dead. She must have been splendid. Ill tell you about her some time but not in a letter. Before we know

that Manjani was coming back on Saturday Masula promised to stay at home for Wednesday night so she still is coming. Mr Clutton Brock saw on a poster in Godalming yesterday afternoon that Greece has declared war. We all asked with whom. But really I don't see how one can know what they will do. I hope they will succeed in helping Rumania it seems as though she needs it.

What a muddle every thing gets into when it is in the Balkans. You have not told me lately how your ankle is I hope its getting much better.

Is Mr Dunbar always ^{there} at the forward position for these night while you are there for the day? Oh and has he now got the position that Captain Lithgow had when you first joined the battery.

George dear, are you allowed to talk about peace in your letters. Mrs Buxton Brown says she thinks it will end this spring in Feb or March. I have told her I'm sure it cant and wont but she sticks sticks to it.

I feel that if it ends next autumn I shall be very thankful. Most people seem to think it will end next year. I think it must it would be so entirely intalleable if it did not, but I cannot feel sure at all. If one could only have some certainty of some sort.

Well at present I must content myself with looking forward to having you on leave. That blot you must please

count as a kiss from baby. I tried to make her write a
further kiss but I could not. She is now seeming like a
pig being killed because I have put her on the ground
and won't pick her up. She is in a very funny mood I
wish I knew what ought to be done with her. She is quite
happy when she is actually on a lap but it won't even do
if I sit beside her and let her hold on to me. It really
is miserable. And Violet is being tiresome. Because I
don't do exactly as she wants she is cross about it.
I ~~may~~ have explained to her as nicely as I could that I
must learn about my own baby even if I do make
mistakes I can't just go by what she says but she does not
seem to understand. It is not even that I think she is
wrong because I think she is very good with her but I
must understand her for myself. I suppose I have made
the usual mistake in not treating her more like a servant
and giving her orders. But it does hurt rather when
I have tried so hard to be kind to her and she turns
out unsympathetic. After all I am only trying to do my
best for baby as she is.

Apparently Greece has not come in as the morning papers say nothing
about it.

I am now going to the town in the rain to do some jobs.

Many kisses for you dear

Your very very loving

Ruth.