

Thursday June 22, [1916]

France

My dearest Ruth, I had two good letters from you yesterday & also 2 parcels; the cake arrived in excellent condition & is much appreciated; likewise the soup. The mess has been quite a good show since the arrival of the night half with a good cook; we have little cots fed in a dug out - quite a good little place with a cupola roof, but much too small for us & an inconvenient arrangement because it is really our map room & a lot of work has to be done there - to-day we moved into a tent.

Friday June 23

That was in the evening after dinner, but was interrupted by the necessity of more mathematical work - registration of targets which lasted till well after midnight - I've been busy ever since I got up this morning & I was busy all yesterday; I'm sorry. It is splendid the way letters come rolling from you - & now this morning my birthday present, with which my dear Ruth I'm highly delighted. The difficulty will be to choose an occasion sufficiently "revised" & "special" to wear them. I had no idea you were

going to Mary for more than the week end - I wonder how long you'll support so long a time in Woburn. I expect you'll talk a lot about France with Ralph & make out more about my life than I have been able to explain.

This afternoon a great storm came upon this part of the vine; I was working with Little in the ex-mess-room which is just below the road. Unfortunately we had made inadequate arrangements for carrying the water draining from the road past the entrance & we soon found that we were sitting at the bottom of a water pipe; I went forth to seize ~~available~~ & improvise some ~~demolishing~~ arrangements with sandbags - I found that the tent I share with Ball had been blown down & all our things were exposed to the pelting rain - I'm wondering how I shall fare for dry bedding to night. The weather I'm happy to say has at last taken a turn & these last two days have been warm with the warmth of summer.

I'm feeling tremendously stung up now for great things - I hope they'll begin soon. The Hun has been more active these last two days - & so have we.

I'm hurrying to get this letter finished before

a messenger starts, ~~and~~ consequently feel very disconnected. I am interested in what you say of Stephen & Bridget; I can't help thinking that it would be a little difficult to get all that you mean out of Bridget - she probably plays so to speak too many games - I think many people satisfy their desire for mental excitement by keeping personal relations mysterious & complicated: but Stephen ought to be able to manage it if he can preserve his sense of humour. My dearest you are a true friend to me & I to you I hope & I'm glad of that too. But I do wish there were more time for talking to each other or at least for me to say my thoughts to you. How much we shall have to pick up when we meet again - I'm afraid I don't look forward to that yet - it seems too improbable & too remote - but of course such a thing has been known to occur after 4 months or even in rare cases after 3. We are well off for officers now as another subaltern has joined us - an ex serjeant-major who I think will prove rather tiresome to judge from his omniscient airs - but of course all will have leave before me. I think rather of England as a sort of this like another world.

I feel singularly unreflective & stupid as a

result of this sort of life. I received Chilton -
Brook's book to-day - please thank him -

Now I must stop - the messenger is
wanting. God bless him when you
hear again. All my love dear dear Ruth
Your loving George.

