

Oct. 8. 1916

My dearest Ruth I shall have no opportunity for writing to you to-morrow, so write I will to night. Another wet day. I had orders last night to start for the O.P. at daybreak but at 4.0 a.m. I was told it was no use going as the 'stunt' would be almost over by the time I arrived; the infantry must have gone over very early & must have done well too I suppose, for I understand they took Le Sars. Any way I shall be out to-morrow & I feel inclined to pray for fine weather. Littleton I must say is very considerate in this way - that he takes care not to send us out if it is too wet to see anything.

Well my dear, I've had an absolutely idle day. Breakfast about 9.0 in pyjamas & then in a leisurely manner back to bed where I made myself very comfortable half sitting & half lying & with an air cushion on my knees for a book or writing pad. I wrote to Raymond. Only saw his name in the

lists yesterday. I'm afraid I'm very sick
about reading them. I do hope his wound
is not bad. I told him to write to you if
he is England & say where he is & you
might see him & get him to Westboro
later. I also wrote to Mrs Fletcher
for Carthusian news. I'm rather
shut in that respect now that Allen
has left. After lunch I dressed
in slacks, the silk shirt, & the new
waistcoat, with a Britul Wason suit
were standing by. — The mess room
because it is so deep & has two lamps,
is much warmer than the anti-room.
After lunch a game of chess with Dunbar.
The weather cleared this afternoon; I took
the air in the pent best possible kind of way
— there was nothing in Nature to be
enjoyed — no sun & plenty of wind. I
have been developing thoughts for another
chapter of my book & since Flea Bell
has played somewhat on his flute &
we, chiefly I, have talked a great

deal I haven't know about what. I say
I don't mention the other officers much.
That is natural because in the ordinary
way I spend very little time with them.
I don't like Bell any less well than I did
- better if any thing; the others I put up
with quite well & with no sense of
humiliation - much better than they
put up with each other. Wood is regarded
as a freak by everybody & adds nothing
to anybody's gaiety. Dunbar & Carey
were at cross purposes the first time they
met & haven't agreed about anything
since. Bell & Carey, who were on rest
together were very good friends I thought
but recently Bell revealed that he disliked
Carey for his 'coarseness' & that Carey
was fed up with him. Bell also talks
of Lithgow as being incompatible with
him & indeed he is. I suppose I'm the
only officer who has any pleasure in
our O.C.'s company, & I blame Lithgow
altogether for that state of affairs; he's

will a sure sign - Bell on the phone - Your loving George - Good Night

too much the business man driving his team
all for efficiency & nothing for sympathy -
& doesn't know how to connect people or to
get them to work for love of their work or
for any higher end than to avoid being
stuffed as he would say. He's really a very
difficult person to work under. He works
fuses far too much. My method is to
preserve an unruffled dignity which is
above being hustled, & that method is
fairly successful. Bell's way is to be
obstinate as a mule & I can be that too
on occasions - but they are very few
on the whole & I prefer to be polite & as
sunny, imperturbable & cheerful -
there - I've told you quite a lot.

I had a letter from you yesterday - of the 29th
but none today. I can't remember at this
moment whether there's anything I intended
to answer. I'll look again before I go to bed.

I've just caused somewhat of a laugh
by saying in a serious tone to Bell - "I think
that putting me has disagreed with me.
I thought it would!" The evening has
passed very pleasantly.