

July 16 Sunday (68)

My own dearest

Such a nice peaceful Sunday morning I got on so well before breakfast that I had plenty of time to take Clara into the garden with Father before her bath. It's a showery day I'm afraid it is getting worse.

Did I tell you that Davis is here for the week end. She is going off to do six weeks farming as a sort of holiday after her work at Oxford.

We heard very good war news again last night. They say that in places we have already got all the second set of trenches. I do think it is wonderful they way we are managing to keep on and not have any serious reverses. I'm simply thrilled by the success of this offensive. I had not idea it would succeed so well. In fact I nearly expected it would be a failure if it even came. Well of course it's got to go

feather ^{a lot} yet before its a complete success.
What I dont know and want to know
very much is how far North of Thispville
have we tried to advance, or is that
the edge of our attempt. Its where the
advance had got on least well unless
we have tried further North & failed
altogether.

Mr Powell said that at night the sound
of shooting can be heard in London
and Harry says they hear it constantly
at Dover

You have spoken lately very little about the
men you are with. I want to hear more
about them. Do you think you will
go on knowing Mr Bell after the war
or any of the others.

Darling I feel that I wrote you very
stupid apology the other day when
you ^{complained} ~~questioned~~ that I said you were not
a Christian. Of course I see that if
you believe in Christs teaching you
are, even if you think you think
he did not mean that he was divine.

but I think many people would not agree with you though I do.

I don't feel in the least inspired to write to you today so I shall stop for the present and say later or tomorrow.

It was because Olive was talking nearly all Monday the time.

Dearest war news is so thrilling just fancy us already having got into the third line. I am longing to hear from you again, and to know what you have been doing. I wonder if you will move forward presently. But I have not really seen the paper this morning and I do not know how the North part of the front is getting on. I should like to know if the Germans are feeling really depressed yet. We were never really any ~~at~~ time, I mean never near thinking we were beaten or ready to make peace. So they may still be hopeful & cheerful, but still I don't quite see

how they can be. These papers I suppose
have to be cheerful by law so to speak.
I was just glancing at a U.D.C. pamphlet
a few minutes ago which put it into
my head. But I don't agree with them
do you? Apparently they want us to
make peace now and give back all the
colonies we have taken and and for them
to give back what we have taken, but I
don't think Germany ought to allowed to
be have as she has and to go back to
things as they were utterly unpunished
except for the awful losses which we
have suffered as well as they.

Father thinks that Austria will get tired
of it soon and will try to make a
separate peace. I don't think that will
happen. Austria may get awfully tired
but I think the difficulties of a separate
peace will be too great, besides it would
mean the Magias who are the ruling
lot now would have to kneel under.
I think the war has come now to its
most thrillingly interesting part, except
the first awful rush. Its very nice

to hear that we have been using cavalry
even if its only across a field.

I'm going to tell you the finish of
the affair of George giving ~~the~~ notice
He has not got the place he longed for
and now he wants to stay and Father
won't keep him, quite naturally because he
has already promised the cottage and
place to Dewington, the new man he saw
and Mrs Dewington has arranged to do the
washing. I think it moves George thoroughly
well right. Still I can't help being sorry
that it should end like that after being
here sixteen years.

Violet is coming back to-morrow, I'm
partly sorry & partly glad. I shall be
able to do many other things that I
want to do, but I do love having baby
all the time & doing every thing
for her. It is very sweet to me.

I want to try and do some more reading
and I want to read things that you
know well so that I can talk to
you about them easily. So I think I
shall start reading Boswell's life of
Johnson. I have wanted to for some time

and I think this is rather a good opportunity
then I could read your book and understand
it. Also I want to try to get some of
the same affection for Shakespeare that
you have. I'm not sure I shall manage
it, but I must have a try. As things
have been lately, I cannot do more in
the day than baby and my letters and
a little needlework in the evening.
We have had to many people here to
read in the evening, except the paper
a little.

Well this letter must stop because I have
others that must be written this morning.
I wonder how many times each day I
look forward to you coming back and the
war ending. I feel that we have been
apart a very long time now, but it must feel
far longer to you, you have been through so
much more. I want more and more some
day to see where you are now, it would make
it more real & vivid to me. I wonder if
I ever shall.

I was by you last night in imagination as you sat
in the map room at a night watch. I wonder if
you were there. your very very loving
Ruth