

[w 11 Oct 1916] 1

My own dearest

Yesterday morning I made half a pneumonia jacket when I was at the depôt it took me just about two hours to do, they are made in two pieces. They thought that I was very quick and did it quite well. I liked the job I expect that was largely because I was doing it well. I think I shall do some more. We had a nice morning there; Mrs Brock came and Constance Mussen. Her husband is in your neighbourhood again now. He was up North in cut billets for five weeks.

After lunch Father read aloud the form the Times a description of the wounded Prussian Guard reaching Potsdam. It was written by that man who has been in German spying out the land for nine months. It was horrible. They seem to keep their ^{wounded} prisoners as much shut away as possible no one is allowed to watch their arrival. He said they were all quite hopelessly depressed and gloomy there was no flicker of a smile on any face, and there were trains and trains of them. If they keep them so shut away I wonder how

ever do they get enough nurses. Perhaps the conscript them and put them into hospitals and do not let them go home for holidays or any thing of that sort

I was so interested in what he was reading that I was a little late going off with the pony cart to fetch plants from Miss Jekyll

I did not spend any extra time in her garden but just got the plants and went off to the Holt and planted them. They are two hydrangeas pink I think but we might be able to make them blue if we got some iron for them. Also there are three white and three salmon pink Floss. These are for you very specially. I planted them for you all the time I was planting them, and the sooner you can enjoy them the better. I think I am going to Mr Clutton Bosc on Monday for plants.

I sent off parcels of to you yesterday. A plum cake by its self and a card board box, one of the new bought ones, and please tell me how it towards, filled with prunes & butter and the little new table cloth and two tins of Miss Jekylls

pot pourri and a bag of lavender from this garden.
 The bag of lavender look rather like a baguette.
 I dont know why. It must be made of muslin
 & I thought it would look nice to be tied up
 with a ribbon. You might cut the ribbon much
 shorter if you dont like it and just tie it in a
 little bow. I have sent two tins of pot pourri
 because there was enough & room in the box &
 I thought M^r Earl might like one, or any way
 you may find some one who does if not you
 must have it behind.

I am so sorry I have been so long in sending
 the table cloth but it seemed so extravagant
 to send it alone it would have cost 1/-

Just as I was leaving The Holt an old road
 man with one arm came up and spoke to me
 and said he had seen an old bicycle in our
 shed that seemed unused and that he would
 like to buy it. I said I thought you wanted
 to keep it to lend to boys but that I would
 ask you about it when I wrote. It is true
 of course that the tins will be rotting and
 its rather a question whether the bicycle will be

worth new toys. What do you think about it?
 I dont mind, It has been useful for lending. &
 Its now after lunch. I was going to take baby
 to tea with the Hannis but Violet thinks
 she is not very well and had better not go
 so I must go alone which is disappointing. Its
 only teeth I think, but she does seem rather
 quiet and one cheek is hot and red. Its makes
 me sad to see her not quite well she is such
 a very dear thing I do love her so.

I am wanting another letter from you I have
 not had one for some days now. I do want
 you back dear the leave will be lovely. I
 wonder when you will get it. You dont I
 hope find it tiring that I say so often that
 I look forward to your leave and long to have
 you back. I did hope the war would end
 before your first leave so that this autumn
 I might have had you back for good. I do
 dread you going so when its over

M^r Brock is going to ~~preach~~ preach a sermon at
 St Martins in the Fields and at Winchester. I
 should like to hear one a good deal. I dont think

M^{rs} Brock told me what the subjects are to be. I never had time to read over the last letter I sent you and I wrote it very fast so I'm afraid you will find it careless. I'm sorry.

The carpenter is only charging me 7^d each for those wooden boxes for your cakes don't you call that pretty cheap. I am glad they are not awfully expensive because I do think they are nice.

I wonder when you get back if we shall ever make up in talking the time you have been away. There are so many things I want to talk to you about that simply can't be done in writing.

Dearest I love you and I am so glad you are so good. It does make me so happy. I really think I have grown quite a bit better since I have lived with you and loved you and admired you. I do you know, inspite of M^{rs} Brock saying that a wife should not admire her husband because he never admires her back again. Well I can't help it I do, & I know I do, and I always have & shall.

Yours very loving
Ruth.