

2nd December 1914

Arthur's sisters want to visit Dollie and her mother at Rabat, but Arthur thinks it would be better if his sister Marie were to host the party in Sliema.

Just a note in haste. **Stephens** has just given me a message from **Marie** and **Laura**, to say that if convenient they will come up to see the **Mater** to-morrow. If inconvenient, will the **Mater** please write.

So I'm sending this over by my servant. I think, dear, don't you that we'd better ask **Marie** if she can give us tea at her house in Sliema.

I do hope, darling little girl, that you're feeling happier. I hate to see you in the dumps...

17th December 1914

Arthur and Alfred arrange more social gatherings for Dollie with their sisters; disturbing news from home that a German warship has bombarded Hartlepool and Whitby.

... In awful haste. I've been very, very busy. Re today – I'll meet you at the station at ten minutes to three. **Alfred]** and I are catching the 12.50 to Valetta. It is **Nella's** father [***Dr. Carmelo Samut***] who is going to England.

Re **Laura**. I enclose a letter from, arranging a rendezvous at the tea place at 4.30. We must see her at the dentist and have her to tea chez **Mabel**. **Alfred** thinks we ought to ask **Laura** first for the Opera. I hear they are going to have Tosca.

PS: We've just had an extract from Reuter. "German warships bombarded Hartlepool and Whitby, shelling churches etc. About 50 shells fired. 1000 people injured. Few deaths. No disorder!!!"

19th December 1914

Arthur is in a complete tizzy – scrambling to get his duties covered by colleagues so he can spend more time with Dollie – but luck is on his side, and friends rally round.

... As luck would have it, I was down for Orderly Officer today. Last night I was in an awful state as – whereas **Johnnie** is going to do this evening for me, I couldn't find anyone for this afternoon.

Luckily **Jerry Sorley** is going to do it for me this afternoon.

I shall have to be over here to do duty at 12.45 but hope to be with you between 1 and 1.15. I have got leave for **Sorley** and **Johnnie** to do this afternoon and evening for me and have got leave also for the weekend.

So hurra!

24th December 1914

Arthur has unexpected orders to be out all day shooting on the range but hopes to join Dollie for lunch in Rabat.

... There has been great confusion over the orders that I have received or rather that the Brigade Office sent up last night. However the long and the short of it is that I am up here for the day, shooting on the miniature range here. May I try and come over for lunch at 1. If I don't hear to the contrary I shall come – please. I shall have to be back at 2.

How are you dear? **Mrs Pulman** is looking forward to our going to her. **Bobbie** is awfully afraid that he has offended you! Don't forget the note to **Monsignor Mifsud...**

29th December 1914

A last short note from Arthur to Dollie, whilst they are in Malta – arranging to meet for lunch.

In a few days time they will both begin the journey back to France, as the Territorials are posted to the Western Front and Dollie returns to Hampstead with her Mother.

Just heard that we're not to go down today. Am firing up here this morning. Hope to be with you for lunch or soon after.