

1st October 1915

Arthur and Company are now billeted at L'Épinette, in a very comfortable farm with plenty of room, and all the happier for arriving in bright sunshine - such a contrast to their normal mode of arrival - late at night and in the rain. The rest of the Brigade is at Calonne. The joys of pyjamas, bedroom slippers and a hot rum toddy!

Arthur to Dollie

In billets, Fri. 8am.

... Yesterday we moved up from where we were at Bout Deville. The Brigade is at Calonne & they tried to get billets for us there too. The place was full however so we are in billets at L'Épinette where I rejoined after my last spell of leave in July. However this time more room has been allotted to us & we are in the big farm that HQ used to be in. Very clean. We've a great big light mess room. **Bailey** & I share a room. The others are in the loft. Rumour has it that we are to be here some days. I hope so, dear.

We had a very pleasant march yesterday. We wound about a lot, via Vieille Chapelle, Fosse and Croix Marmuse. We paraded at 1.10. It was bitterly cold; a keen wind blew from the N. but the sun was shining nearly all the time & the air was intoxicating!

We arrived here about twenty past 4. It is a pleasure to get into billets on a fine day & fresh, instead of arriving as we usually do, late at night, probably raining & very, very tired.

Yesterday there was no mail: I was very disappointed dear, for I wanted to hear from you & simply love to get your letters. We had a high tea & dinner late at 9. Then I got into pyjamas & bedroom slippers & we had a hot rum toddy before turning in. We had the gramophone from HQ which distinctly cheered things up...

2nd October 1915

More news confirmed about the brigade's heavy losses in the recent battle; a personal thank you from Divisional Commander, General Jacobs; advance notice of a move back to the trenches soon – holding the line; the sunny weather continues to raise the spirits, despite an icy wind from the north.

Arthur to Dollie

In billets, Satur. 8.20am.

... Yesterday I was very bucked to get two letters from you dear – Monday's & Tuesday's. By now you'll have had my news & know that DG. I came through unscathed. The Brigade lost very heavily – we were awfully lucky to get out cheaply. Our casualties only 52 out of about 250 & 2 officers, **Gedge** killed & little **Beresford** gassed.

Yesterday I went up to HQ after brekker – it's about a mile away. I'd just got back when I had a message from HQ "All Officers wanted". We all went up & after an hour's waiting **General Jacobs**, our Divisional Commander came up. He thanked us all for our part in the show, told us the losses of the Division – only 2 Brigades were involved yet the Division lost 107 officers & 1/3 of the men. He said we were now going to hold the line while they pushed elsewhere. We are going in a day or two just down beyond where we started in February.

He went off & we dispersed. In the afternoon we went for a young route march. We were in at 4: had tea. Then I paid out the Company. I was awfully sleepy last night, little one & couldn't keep my eyes open, so turned in soon after 9 & slept the sleep of a king.

The weather is still wonderful, very cold with an icy wind from the N. But plenty of sun, thank heaven, & little or no rain. It's a quarter to nine – I wonder what you're doing, dear, Saturday morning. You're busy I expect. It seems ever so much more than a week since that dark & fierce morning of the 25th!

3rd October 1915

Arthur's letters are finally getting through to Dollie and by now she should have heard the news of brigade casualties; the surprise return of Beresford, despite being recently gassed; alas, no news of leave in the near future; Arthur faces a trek into the trenches again – holding the line for a few days.

Arthur to Dollie

In billets, Sunday 7.55am.

... I was glad when your letter came yesterday to say that you had received news of me. You are a brave little personage ar'n't you? God bless you. As to particulars & casualties, dear, you'll have had my letter by now. More one cannot really say yet, darling, for though our part of the show is over, developments may still be awaited elsewhere. Our officer casualties were only 2; poor **Gedge** killed & **Beresford** gassed. But to the surprise of all of us he turned up again yesterday afternoon.

I've been asking about leave, dear; you may bet on that. But as yet, anyway, no leave is on. I'm just dying to be with you again. Queen of my heart – may it be soon DV.

Yesterday was another very autumnal day – cold & though sunny at times, damp. To-day looks as if it would beat it. We went for a route march for about 2 ¼ hours. It was very pleasant & gave us all a famous appetite for tea.

To-day, dear, we are on the trek again at 12. Our destination is where I have already told you – where the Indian Corps first started, this time last year. We are to hold the line. It means a fairly long march: but as long as it doesn't rain, we don't mind that!

I think that's all the news little lover. I expect to be very busy till we get off. I hope you're awfully fit and well. Keep a stout heart, sweet one, as you have done. God bless you & comfort you...

5th October 1915

The brigade march off in one great long column – transport and all – from “Paradis”; friend Algy looks gorgeous in his staff kit; showery weather; settling into billets in a local chateau.

Arthur to Dollie

In billets, Tues morning 8.30am

... I've two dear letters from you: thanks awfully dear: they are welcome. We left L'Espinette on Sunday morning, dear; picked up the rest of the brigade at Paradis & came along as a Brigade, a great long column, transport & all. We left about half-past 12. Just before we marched off, **Algy** turned up. He is on the divisional staff of one of the new divisions - the 23rd. He looked very fit & very gorgeous in his staff kit.

We arrived here about 4, passing many old scenes and friends as we came along. We are all together in a big farm; really what they call a “chateau” here, with farm buildings by it, in form of a square. Very bare, but we've got straw & our valises & fires, so we're pretty comfortable. I got all my men into a barn down the road; but yesterday had to move them out to make room for some gunners. This took up all the afternoon.

The weather, dear, has not been very fine – rather showery. Still, considering how late the season is, one oughtn't to grumble. I'm feeling very fit – a bit stale, & simply dying to get home for a sight of your darling face. I'd give anything to be with you, sweet heart. I'm pushing for leave but there doesn't seem much chance.

How are you getting on, little lover. I wonder what you're doing now – 9am. If I was at home, waiting for the telephone. God bless you...

6th October 1915

The company are on 45 minutes notice so cannot go far; the C.O. is under the weather and being evasive; beastly damp weather and leaky billets; keeping busy chopping logs, waiting for the call into trenches.

Arthur to Dollie

In billets, Wednes. am. 8.40

I was so pleased to get your dear letter of Saturday yesterday afternoon ... If you could realise how we all long for the mail – I in particular. The life here goes on much the same round – we are on 45 minutes notice. It is virtually as if we had a long piece of string on one's leg. For one cannot of course go far and back in that time.

The weather is beastly – very damp & very wet. But we mustn't grumble – thank God we are not "in". The only drawback to our quarters upstairs is that the rain is apt to leak through the ceiling in one place. But that doesn't worry us much dear.

The C.O. hasn't been feeling very fit – he's better now. We don't see very much of him. Sounds strange as he's living in the same house, but he keeps very much to himself. No news yet as to when we're going up. I hope not until the weather changes.

We spend a certain amount of time here chopping wood – for we've a glorious wood fire in our room. In the morning I'm generally with the Company, Rifle Inspection, Company Orders & the like.

No news yet of leave being opened... I'd give anything to be with you again, dear. The days seem so long away from your dear side. God bless you...

8th October 1915

Two damp route marches a day; the prospect of a few more days in billets then a long spell in the trenches to look forward to – thankfully with no chance of being in a push; Brigade are trying to get leave opened for the officers and men.

Arthur to Dollie

In my flea-bag, 7.10am Thurs.

... I'm determined to get a letter off to you by the early post: and as I've several things to do before a route march at 10, I'm starting now... Life is passing along here much the same day by day – only now we have 2 route marches a day – from 10-11, & 3-4. But by now we've practically covered all the ground within a mile radius of this place.

The weather has improved lately and we've actually had some sun. It's very low-lying, so it's very damp & there are lots of trees that collect the moisture & the mist. We're here for a few more days, I believe, but it's very difficult to get information.

The Brigade are trying to get leave opened from the Division. I do hope they succeed, little one, for I'm yearning to be with you again – you darling! It is now 9.15. I had two men to see before the C.O. & had to investigate things first, so have been in a bit of a rush.

I'm feeling awfully fit DG but rather lazy! There's a prospect of a long sojourn in the trenches ahead of us, but DG. no chance of a push just where we are going to be. That's something to be thankful for...

9th October 1915

A letter of two halves: a cannonade to the south and the troops are ordered to be on instant readiness, packing up in the dark and sleeping the night in their kit; a morning ride up to inspect a new section of the line - overlooking the Hun trenches and La Basse; the nearby village of Givenchy has almost been destroyed; a cinema show for the men and sick leave for the CO.

Arthur to Dollie

8am.

... Another awful rush. **Newsom** & I are riding up to-day to have a view of our future trenches. We are off at half-past 8. I was just going to write last night when we had a "wind-up" dear; since noon the guns had rumbled & roared to the S. – Hulluch way. The Huns apparently on the jumps, fired a certain amount this side of the Canal. About 4, the cannonade to the S. was terrific.

Soon after tea we got the order to be on instant readiness to move. Fearful excitement; but everyone was cheery as it was obviously only a precautionary measure. Still, it meant packing everything up, which in the dark wasn't very simple. As a result we slept last night with all our clothes on – bit of a nuisance. Still, dear, that's only one of the very minor discomforts of a campaign!

I was very bucked to get your dear letter of Tuesday. I am dying to see you in your new war paint! I think red will suit you, dear, wonderfully & am awfully impatient to see it. Please God it won't be long before leave will be opened again...

In billets, Saturday even., 8.30pm

... To-day has been very dull – from a weather point of view. This morning **Newsom** & I rode up to have a look at the trenches. They are awfully important & rather interesting as they are actually on the forward slopes of a hill & one looks right over to the Hun trenches & La Basse. On top of the hill & just behind our line is a village – or what there is left of it – Givenchy.

We got back about half-past one, dear. Found we were back on our normal 45 minutes notice. So the Company had gone for the usual route march in the morning. It went again this afternoon, but I got leave off & slept. I was feeling rather tired. I didn't sleep very well last night. All the turmoil & cannonade yesterday was a desperate German counter-attack in force. Our casualties were heavy, I believe, but we absolutely *strafed* the enemy & his losses were colossal.

This evening – after tea – we had a cinema show in the barn here where No1 Company are billeted. Quite a good show, dear. The men were awfully cheery & their remarks simply priceless. The Brigadier turned up & the Brigade Major. The GOC of the Division – **Jacobs** – turned up this morning & is sending the **C.O.** home on a fortnight's sick leave! He hasn't been fit lately...

DD. I wonder if you'd do me an awful favour. Ask **Daisy** to order me some tobacco, a refill for my lamp & let me have them as soon as she can. I'm writing home DV to-morrow ...

11th October 1915

Back in trenches, this time with the Leicesters; a good view south over the canal towards Loos, with “Tower Bridge” in site; a rainy start to the evening prompts Arthur to imagine himself sitting happily with Dollie in front of a cosy drawing room fire.

Arthur to Dollie

In a dug-out, (Hotel Cecil), 5.50 pm Mon.

... Up again! bless it. We came in to-day with the Leicesters to whom we are attached. This morning the **C.O.** went off for his fortnight's sick leave. How I envy him! I'd give anything to be at home with you little one: just by your side in the growing dark – as we have often sat together, happy in our love, wonderful gift.

From up here where we are we get quite a good view southwards over the Canal towards Loos. One can see the so-called “Tower Bridge” quite distinctly. They were strafing rather there to-day. It was wonderful, after the usual restricted view, to be able to look down on the great plain and the smoke of bursting shells.

I have **Lloyd & Wilcox** up now as my subalterns, with **Abbott** as Bomb Officer. **Tabor** is up here too with his machine guns & **Bateman** with his bomb guns.

Weather, dear, pretty fine; that's to say we've had some sun to-day. But to-night it looks like rain. As a matter of fact, it has just begun to drizzle.

Thank God dear I am very fit & just longing for your letter to-night. Darling, I love to imagine I'm by your side again; it's quite dark now; lets pretend we're in front of the drawing room fire, awfully happy...

LOOS "TOWER BRIDGE" OR "CRYSTAL PALACE": A CAPTURE.



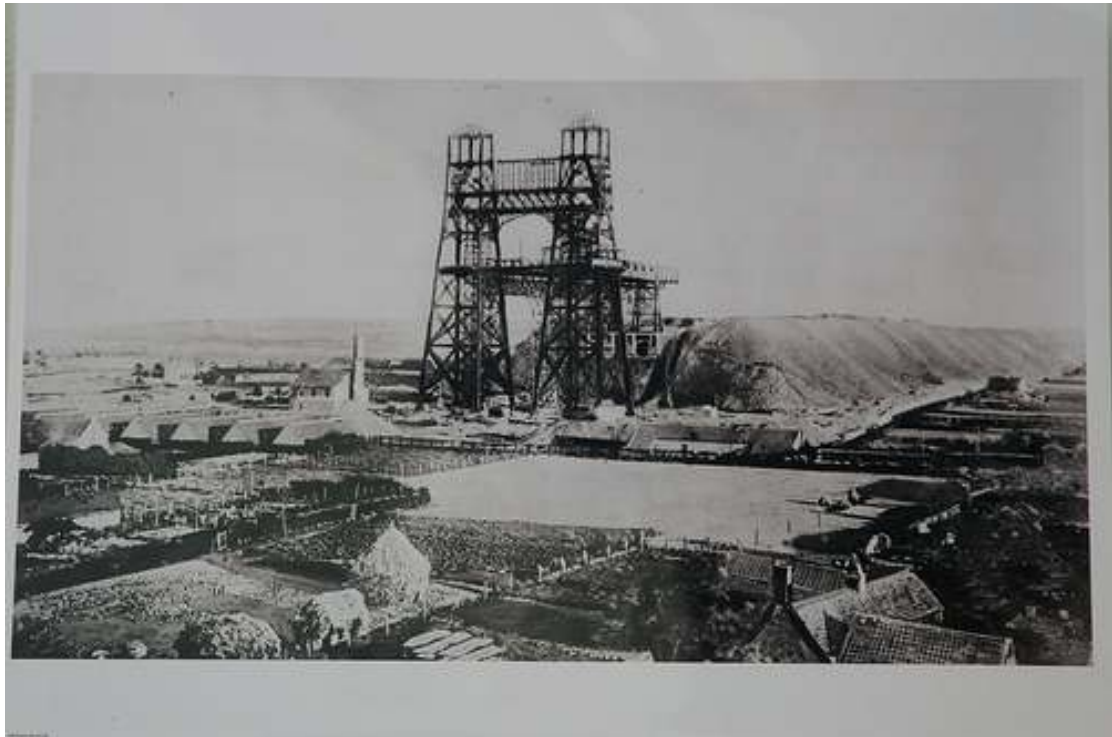
IN OUR HANDS BY 7 A.M. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: THE LOFTY IRON STRUCTURE AT LOOS, A LANDMARK FOR MILES ROUND, WHICH WAS A GUIDING POINT TO THE BRITISH CENTRAL ATTACK.

The central element in the British advance on the Loos position and the La Bassée district on September 25 was directed on the mining village of Loos. The German first and second lines were pounded out of existence by our artillery, but the third line, amidst which Loos stood, was so far intact in the last part, in places, the enemy's wire entanglements had to be broken through by sharpshooters and machine-guns. The British infantry, led by a Brigade of the New Army, raced across the flat, interesting ground, and were in Loos before the defence could rally. Their goal-

point was the great structure known as "Loos," says Mr. John Buchan, "is remarkable for its size and its height. It is visible far into the night, and on a clear day you can see it from the Hill of Carniel. Such a place works a magnificent effect on the imagination, and it is not surprising that the British were so quick to capture it. The tower at Loos was in our hands by seven o'clock on Saturday morning."

54. La Grande Guerre 1914-15-16 — LOON (P.-de-C.)
L'entée des Charbonnages.
Tour Bridge.
Vue Paris 44 A. R.







WITH RUINED BRIDGES, THE WAY, WITH THE GREAT BRIDGE AND BARRAGE IN THE DISTANCE, THE TOWER BRIDGE AND HALL, IN



12th October 1915

Arthur indicates to Dollie what an important position they are holding on the front line; a description of the battlefield from their relatively elevated position; the weather has been sunny but cool and the nights are noticeably long; a request for various monthly papers.

Arthur to Dollie

In my dug-out, Tues. 5.25 pm.

... Thanks awfully, little one, for your dear letter of Saturday. If you could realise what a help & comfort your dear letters are especially up here, when one is always on the strain. Up here too the anxiety is more than usual – it's an awfully important position and one rather difficult, though DG, I think we have the easiest part of it.

There is not very much news to report, dear. They have been bombing a bit away on our left but we have the upper hand. The weather to-day has been ripping: cool for it's October; but sunny & a light breeze. The nights are growing long now: we stand to in the evening at a quarter to six & in the morning at a quarter to five. The nights are very dark & misty.

You're a dear, little one, to have sent me the Illustrated London News. It's awfully welcome – but lately Alphonse [**Alfred** Agius] has been sending them. I'd be awfully grateful, dear, for any monthly ones – only this month I've seen Pearsons & Nash's.

News not very much. What there is seems very good. The French are doing magnificently in Champagne; pushing through beyond Tahure. We seem to have a good grip on our bit S. of here. We get an extraordinary view from the back of our trenches here Southwards over the canal and the Cuinchy - Cambrin brick fields to the twin towers of Loos. Just a brown undulating plain in the mist & columns of black smoke or puffs of white shewing where the high explosive or shrapnel are bursting.

I'm longing to get back to you, dear. Time seems so long without you... Please God when we meet again we'll have a ripping time – *soon*...



13th October 1915

Arthur has been in action today as the Indian Corps made a feint attack with smoke bombs; thankfully there were few casualties, despite heavy retaliation from the enemy; Dollie's evening letter comes as a loving breath from home after all the recent danger.

Arthur to Dollie

In my dugout, 6.10pm. Wedn.

... Thank God we've withstood another show to-day, & come out unscathed. To-day has shewn a great shove down South of the Canal, & we of the Indian Corps made a feint attack with smoke bombs, for which we were very heavily shelled by the enemy for an hour and a half. I must write more details later, for time presses, little one; our casualties were absurdly few DG. 1 killed, 5 wounded; 1 officer **Lloyd** – the **Lloyd of No1 Coy** – wounded in the shoulder.

The weather has been ripping, save for one short shower this morning. I was so bucked, dear, to get your loving letter of Sunday. After the strain of to-day it came like a breath from home, breathing of love and tenderness ... No news yet of leave. I'd give anything to be by your dear side to-night...

13.10.16.
TRENCHES
TRENCHES

Hour, Date, Place

Particulars regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
References are contained in P. S. Memo, Part II
and the Staff Manual respectively. Both pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Dull misty day with a little rain and fine though
cloudy evening. Attack took place S of Canal in direction of 100
and HULLOWN, the Indian Corps cooperating by sending over Phos-
phorus smoke bombs. The wind which was favourable at first
slightly changed so smoke rather hung and came back in
some parts of the trenches. It is was of course useless.

Our batteries bombarded the whole day enfilading the
German support trenches and line to the S of Canal.
The nearest attack being made by us was on House No. 8 again.
Our throwing ~~over~~ of bombs elicited rifle and machine
gun fire from the enemy but little artillery fire, which did
little or no damage. Some mine-thrower bombs were thrown over
and breached the parapet in all places but caused no casualties.
and Lieut Hans JODHA JANG was very slightly wounded last night
in the arm, while making a loophole and came in and was dressed
and went out again this morning to supervise the Coy during
their smoke attack, and unfortunately wounded again rather
severely ~~rather~~ in the neck by shrapnel and so had to be
evacuated to the Field Ambulance. He did very well.

The enemy also let up fires all along the line
to disperse the ground smoke.

Heavy bombardment started the south about 6.30 a.m.
which sounded like German counter attacks. In their last counter
attack they suffered very heavily leaving 7 to 8000 dead on
the field in front of our trenches.

Casualties. Wounded B.O.I.C.R.I.4 (2.1/36th G.,
2.2/36th G.)

Total Casualties today:-

	2/36th G.			1/36th G.		
	K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M.
B.O's.	8	1	1	1	1	-
" attached.	-	5	-	-	-	-
I.O's.	3	11	1	1	3	-
" attached.	-	1	-	-	-	-
O.R.I.	112	530	22	16	142	16
" attached O.R.I.	8	8	8	-	-	-
" B.M.P.	10	45	8	-	-	-
" Trench B.&K.	7	31	-	-	-	-
	153	634	45	18	155	16.

Remarks and references to Appendix

14th October 1915

Autumn mists and ripping sunshine; the nearby Seaforths were under attack but gave as good as they got; the British miners blow in 3 German galleries; Arthur is most severely put out that friends in the under-employed HQ staff have got leave, when he has no chance of seeing Dollie in the near future!

Arthur to Dollie

In my dug-out, 5.40pm Thurs.

... To-day, unfortunately, the post is late; so I am still eagerly looking forward to your dear letter. Please God, it will turn up soon.

The weather to-day has been ripping; very sunny, though there was a heavy mist this morning before the sun rose. We have been pretty quiet DG. Just now the Huns dropped a Minnie (a bomb containing 220lbs of explosive) into the Seaforths on our left. They got most severely "strafed" for it, with bombs, rifle-grenades & shell. This morning our miners blew in 3 German galleries.

It's now 6.30 dear. We've just blown in another mine. Talking of mines ... the Ducks Bill affair ... the Germans did blow in some mines but they were nearer their own line than ours!

At present, darling, I'm full of indignation – with an "orrid growse". **Johnnie Sutcliffe** got special leave this morning & went off. Apparently the General told him & the **C.O.** to put in for leave as they hadn't anything to do here while we were under the Leicesters. I'm feeling awfully fed up – for our HQ have an awfully soft time of it. I immediately sent in a wire but was told it wasn't open yet. I am fed up, for I am just dying to see you ...

Lloyd was relieved by **Lewis** today. **Rice, Davis & Page** came along too to give us a look. They say 37 of our old fellows are back again as a draft...

FORM 101-101 50000 014 101114 1000000000

14.10.18.
Tranche
GIVENCHY

Hour, Date, Page

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. 8. Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in accordance.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

WAR DIARY

Army Form Q. 2118.

Dull misty day, inclined to rain, fine evening.

The smoke from our bombs hung about a bit on the G.S. night as the wind seemed to have changed shortly after we commenced throwing them, and it came back.

Result of yesterday's battle satisfactory.

HOUSSEIGRES redoubt captured also the quarries and the battle went on during the night and commenced again this morning.

A captured letter found on an officer of the German General Staff recently killed in action and written by a senior officer of the German G.R.I. is of interest:-

"An Army Corps Commander writes:-

"Please give instructions that a large number of propositions be issued to the Prussian soldier. I rely upon the order of the Emperor William on this subject being executed. It is necessary to do every thing possible to weaken the Russian Army which is escaping from our grasp and withdrawing to an unknown destination. Time is not far distant when our situation will become intolerable and it is possible that we may be compelled to sign a peace treaty, of which the terms may be dictated by our enemies. Men who formerly had dreams of the world no longer being worthy of being ruled by Paris, Petrograd, this task will be reserved for our grandsons and not for the heroic German Warriors who are now sacrificing their lives in the endless field of Russia."

The G.C.O. has some found trenches and the G.C. Section sent him. They were in a lot of repair especially on our right. Casualties killed G.R.I. (3/30) wounded G.R.I. (1/30)

Total Casualties to date:-

	3/30th G.			1/30th G.		
	K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M.
B.C.'s.	5	1	1	1	4	1
" attached.	5	-	-	-	-	-
I.C.'s.	3	11	1	1	5	-
" attached.	-	1	-	-	-	-
G.R.I.	130	530	20	18	150	15
" attached Regts.	8	8	8	-	-	-
" " B.M.P.	10	43	8	-	-	-
" " Tenth B. & M.	7	31	-	-	-	-
	155	654	45	18	158	15.

Historical and references to Agencies

16th October 1915

Arthur is now out of the front line and he and his men are in the relative safety of posts; technical notes on the various grades of Minenwerfer hurled at them by the enemy; Dollie has been knitting socks for Arthur, but “I don’t want to use them for fear they should eventually run out” !

Arthur to Dollie

La Bassee Canal, 5pm Sat.

... Yesterday we were relieved about midday in the front line & came back here where we are in posts. I have 3. Pretty quiet so far DG but not very comfortable. However it’s all in the day’s work & it is a real relief to be out of rifle grenade & “minnie” range. “She” is the “mine thrower” – minnie being short for minenwerfer. That throws bombs of 3 sizes, medium (60lbs) & big (220lbs), the latter an awful thing 3 feet by one, that flattens out a whole section of trench. Poor “Punch” **Bald** of the machine guns was killed by a rifle grenade yesterday, & with him **Rolfe**, the Leicester machine gunner.

We are pretty busy here & its an awfully interesting spot. Your parcel, dear, is awfully acceptable – especially the socks. God bless your loving heart & your dear little fingers. I’m almost too proud of them to wear them. I don’t want to use them for fear they should eventually run out. But they look too inviting to refuse to wear, & too good ever to wear out...

No news yet about leave, little one. I’m just yearning to be with you again, please God, it will soon come. It’s rather chilly of nights and to-day has been a real misty autumn day. The big muffler you made me last year is in full use again & awfully welcome.

Beresford & Sammy came round this morning. As C.O. & Adjutant they are an incongruous pair! Well, darling mine, I think that’s the lot. I’d describe this place to you, only it would give it away so must wait. I’m living for the glimpse of your dear little face once more...

17th October 1915

Working on the wire whilst the misty morning provides some protection; not good weather for the snipers though; leave is open for the men, but not for the officers yet; four more days in their current position – with the hopes of a haircut and a bath when they return to billets; Arthur obviously has a good relationship with his mother-in-law to be.

Arthur to Dollie

Sunday even. 5.30pm

... Thanks awfully for your dear letter of Wednesday. It bucked me awfully to get your news. I long for your letters more & more every day ... God bless you. To-day has been a fairly uneventful day. Last night we thought we heard an airship over. This morning was very misty so we were busy working at wire from about half-past five till 8 and again after breakfast. **Sammy** came up today to snipe but it was too misty. To-night it has cleared a bit & there is a moon. It's very cold.

They say that leave has opened again for the men to-day. I'm hoping & yearning that soon leave will open for us too. I'm longing to see you... I heard today that we are to be up for another 4 days. I sha'n't be awfully sorry to get back – for my hair is in sad need of a crop & I should revel in a bath & change.

I am awfully fit DG. It's a pretty healthy sort of life, campaigning – barring accidents of course. Please remember me to your dear **Mater**. I want her dear old face and a motherly hug!



Frederick Samuel

SAMUEL, FREDERICK DUDLEY (1877–1 January 1951), army officer and communal leader. London-born, a nephew of Sir Marcus *Samuel, first Lord Bearsted, and brother-in-law of Redcliffe *Salaman, he served in the Boer War with the Midland Mounted Rifles, and during the First World War saw action in France, where he was wounded and mentioned in despatches four times. In 1918 he commanded the 40th (Jewish) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, in Egypt and Palestine. He was Joint Treasurer of the *Jewish Board of Guardians (1929–38), and in 1935, while Treasurer of the Central British Fund for German Jewry, he visited the yishuv to ascertain arrangements being made for arrivals from Nazi Germany. Shortly before his death he became an honorary vice-president of the Home for Aged Jews.

JC (5 Jan. 1951).

18th October 1915

Cold, windy weather, with an occasional cheering glimpse of the sun; inspections with the C.O.; news of relief from their current post – but only for one day; laying more wire in the misty morning; a collection for one of the regimental lady helpers back home – though Arthur thinks sister Daisy is just as deserving, for all the work she does too!

Arthur to Dollie

Monday evening, 5pm.

...Thanks awfully for Friday's letter. I'm glad to hear the tea fight at Beckenham was a success. Lucky tea-fight to have been graced by your dear presence.

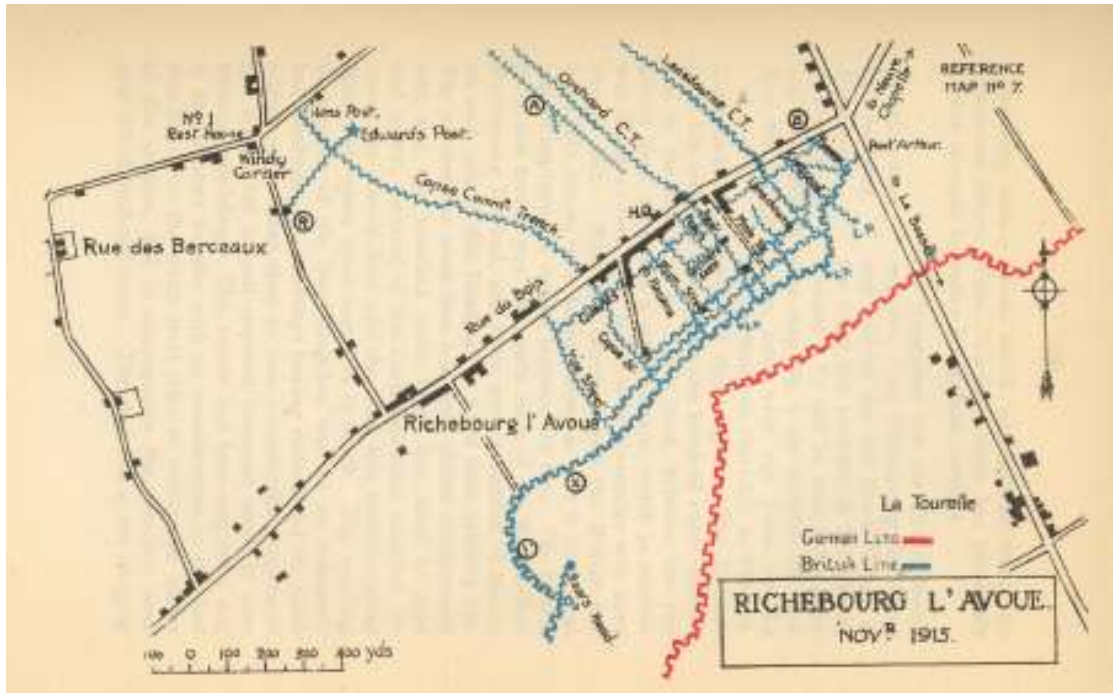
There is little fresh news again here to-day, dear. It's much colder, the wind is now in the North-East. Today has been finer – we have actually seen the sun – which is much more cheerful. At the same time there has been rather more activity to-day. Thank heavens I don't think they suspect our presence here.

The **Doc.** did his rounds this morning. **Beresford** also came along, so I went up to **Lloyd** at Mairie Redoubt with him. Apparently we are to be relieved to-morrow but only for one day. Then we are to come in again in our old haunts of the Rue du Bois. So they say, but nothing definite as yet.

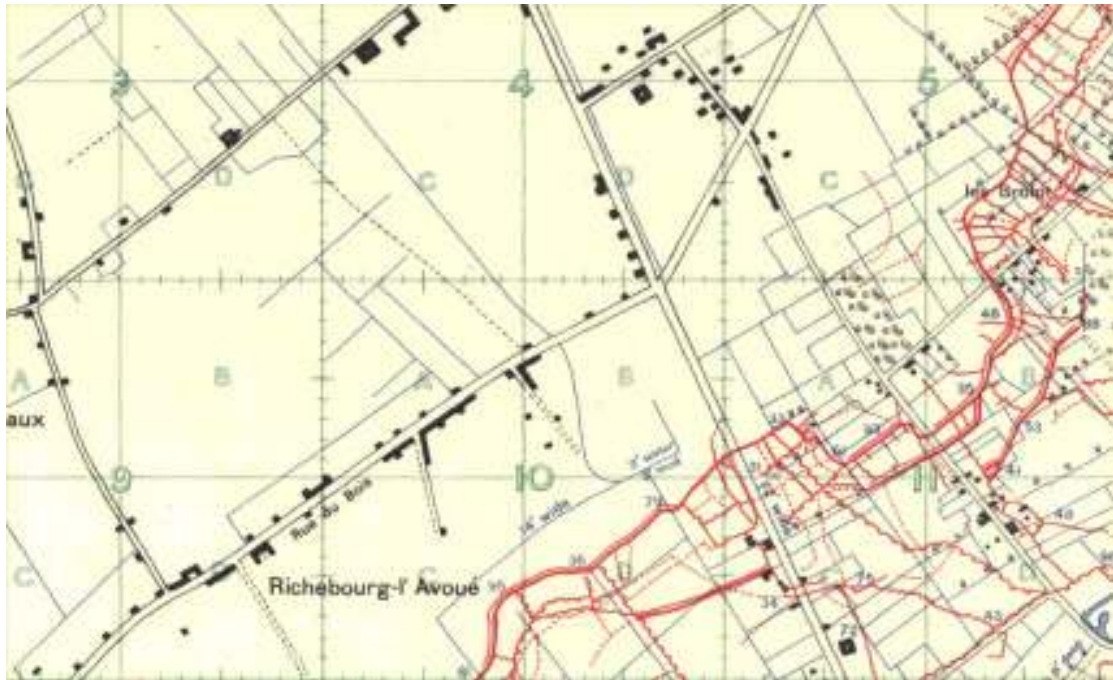
This morning we were out busy putting out wire – put out all we had. The grass was very wet in the heavy mist. Its quite a relief being able to work out of hearing distance of the Boches, though we are well within rifle fire.

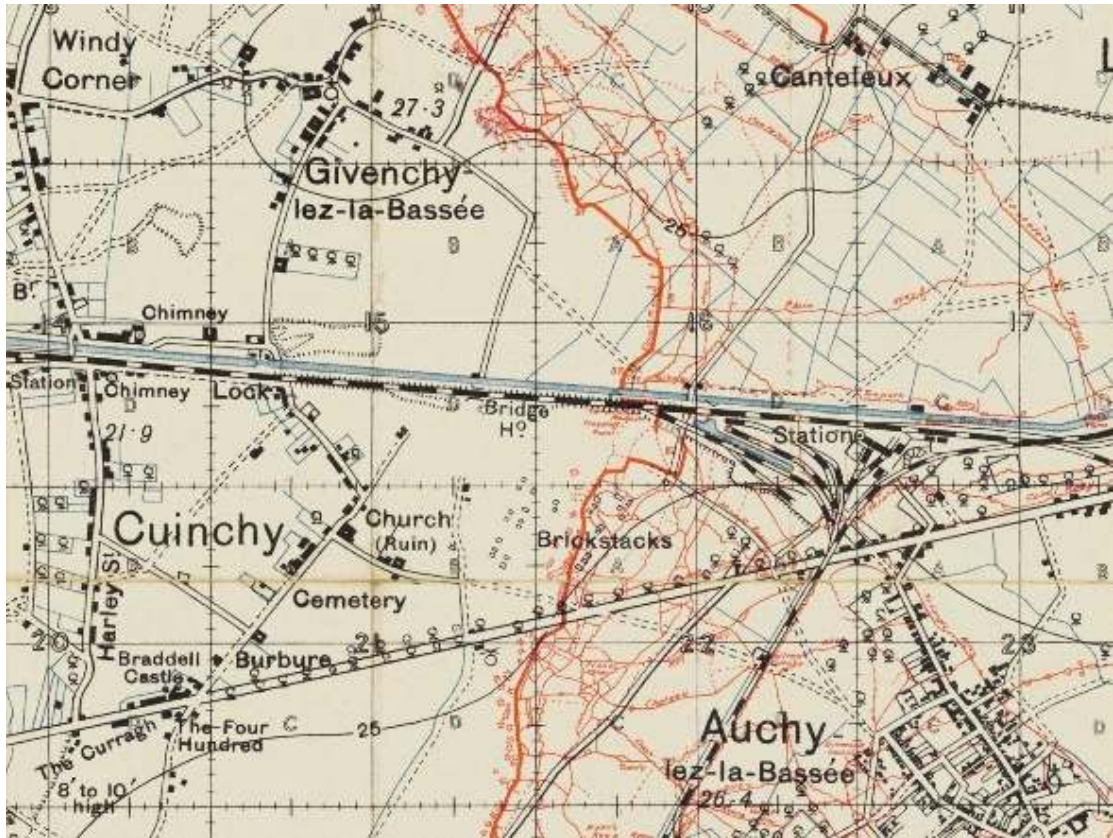
Personally we all thought the **Miss Crozier** business overdone. If to her, why not to **Daisy** for instance or any of the other workers. The **C.O. & Sammy** gave a fiver each, the new ones gave about £1, the subs about £2. I gave £3.3.0. Still I suppose it's in a good cause though we rather felt we had been let in for it.

No news of leave. I asked again to-day but nothing has come through. So darling au revoir, remember me to all...



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21st October 1915

Arthur and Company have been relieved at Givenchy by the Regulars of the 3rd Battalion and are now back near the Duck's Bill; Arthur is hoping for leave as he has friend Harry's cap safe to return to widow Rosa Pulman; Arthur is in command of 7 posts – he has made "Chocolate" Post his HQ, and spends his time on inspections - both morning and afternoon – as the autumn days grow noticeably shorter.

Arthur to Dollie

Chocolate Post, 5.50am. Thurs. am.

The day before yesterday we were relieved at Givenchy. It was a beautiful morning – cold but very fine & our spirits were correspondingly high, you may be sure, little one. In the Brigade that relieved us were the 3rd R.F. – the Regular Battalion! The relief took place about 10. We marched independently back to our old billets in the big farm at Loisne near Gorre.

We slept there that night – next morning – that is yesterday, we packed up & trekked up to the Rue du Bois via Le Touret. We're on our old front from near the Factory to just beyond the old Duck Bill (Farm Corner). The battalion is holding 15 posts of which my Company is in charge of 7. This one Chocolate which is my HQ & the one nearest me where **Lloyd** is, Dead Cow, are just down Princes Road off the Rue du Bois by Chocolat Menier Corner. I don't know whether these names convey anything to you dearest, but they are full of old memories. Dead Cow Farm just down the road here is where I first came under fire last February!

Now you've my news, darling. Thanks awfully for your dear letters of Saturday & Sunday. About **Harry's** cap, little one. I have been keeping it in hopes that I'd get leave before now. However as the rest of the Division have leave I hope it won't be long before our Brigade gets it too. I am simply dying to come home ...

P.S. Herewith 9 photos – a present from **Lloyd**.

Thurs. 5.10pm.

Thanks awfully for your dear letter of Monday. I cannot understand, little lover, how it is that you have not heard from me. Thank God I am very fit & well. There is little news since this morning. The weather to-day has been sunny & mild but the days are growing awfully short. This morning **Beresford** came up, so I did the rounds of my 7 posts with him & the **Doctor**. We got back about half-past 12. This afternoon I trekked round again. No news yet as to how long we are up for. I hope not for long for I want my leave...

John wrote to me to-day – a very cheery letter – that I'll send you, dear as soon as I've answered it. Well, little one, I think that's all. Remember me to all I know. God bless you & keep you well & happy dear...

22nd October 1915

Arthur is still on duty at “Chocolate” Post – hoping for a relief after the weekend; he is feeling very stale after a downpour soaked them all last night; dinner with Lloyd from “Dead Cow” farm.

Arthur to Dollie

Chocolate Post, Friday even 5.20pm

I waited till now for your dear letter & lo it has come. Thanks awfully for it, little one. God bless you.

I'm feeling rather stale today. I had a wash and a shave this morning – but last night it rained & everything's in a beastly Mess! One gets rather fed up living out in it. This is just an ordinary growse (sic), dear! Don't pay any attention to it. A soldier is not a soldier without a growse & it does one good to get it off one's chest. That's an awful sentence isn't it, dear. You know what I mean. If you could only realise how you help me – by just letting me write to you like this. I feel I am not alone, but that you, little helpmate, are always at my side, through thick & thin, encouraging me & urging me on when I feel dull or slack.

Today has passed much the same as usual. Last night **Lloyd** came over from Dead Cow to dinner. He and I mess together now. This morning I did the rounds again & got back about a quarter to one. This afternoon I slept. Hopes of a relief on Monday D.V.

23rd October 1915

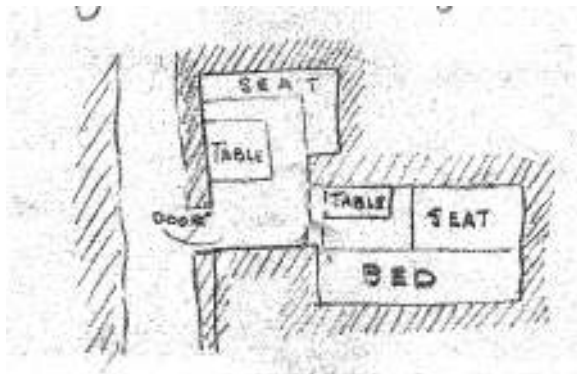
Arthur is excited as leave is now open to the officers and he has every hope of being home with Dollie in two weeks time; an extension is crafted to his dugout; inspections with the CO; fine but wintry weather;

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Chocolate Post, Satur. even 5.20pm

... I'm feeling awfully happy & excited to-night for I heard to-day that leave is open; which means D.V. that I should be with you within the next fortnight. It seems too good to be true ... Thanks awfully for your letter of Wednesday dear. You'll see I've added to my dug-out. I've made another room – an anteroom & furnished it with a door. That being so it had to have a name. This is a rough plan of it...

Lloyd messes with me now – it is much more cheery. **Rice** went off to-day to do a machine gun course. To-day has been fairly fine but its very wintry weather & very cold. A mist settles down about 3 in the afternoon. This morning I went round with **Beresford**. **Sammy** joined us after we had been half way round. **Wilcox**, **Ainsworth**, **Rice** & **Lloyd** were all in to tea. It was rather cheery. Well, dear, I think that's all. I'm just dying to be with you again. So au revoir...



24th October 1915

Arthur speculates on the date of his proposed leave – with great anxiety; rainy weather and shelling by the enemy; at least they are out of bombing range; the local wildlife provide some light relief in his expanded dugout.

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Chocolate Post, Sunday 6.5pm

... Heaps of thanks for your dear letter of Thursday. I am anxious about leave, you may imagine. The first lot due to go are **Wilcox, Morley & Sammy**. Then myself, **Page** & I think **Brady**. If the first lot get leave at once, say the day after tomorrow – the 26th, the next lot (i.e. including me!) ought to get theirs about the 4th – 11th. However there is some talk that the first lot won't go until we are relieved, which means a few days later. I cannot get any news, dear, as to when we are coming out. Some say Wednesday, others Tuesday week. But I don't think anyone knows.

To-day has not been so fine & this evening it rained a little. This afternoon we spent an uncomfortable hour and a half for they shelled the support line, not more than 80 yards away & in our line. Big stuff but not much damage D.G. Life is pretty slow here otherwise. Thank heaven we are out of bombing distance & it is really pretty quiet here. Any amount of animal life: the dug-out is full of priceless little mice, very sleek & glossy, very cheeky. Also a small lizard, a hornet, that has since died a violent death, about half-a-dozen wasps, and hundreds of gnats. Quite a young Zoo.

I'm nearly off my head at the prospect of seeing you again ...

26th October 1915

A clear, sunny morning after a day of miserable wind and rain; life in a very wet trench, made bearable by paper boat races; a reasonable night's sleep whilst not in the front line; Arthur calculates his leave dates and longs for his next meeting with Dollie.

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Chocolate Post, Tues. morn 7am

... This morning is one of those priceless mornings after rain. The air is clear – washed, keen and very cold. But there's no mist & the sun is up! Thanks awfully, dear, for your dear letter of Friday. Darling, I pushed for leave for all I am worth. Our HQ are incredibly slow. However, as I am down for the second lot, their slowness may prove our benefit. **Beresford** came up yesterday, but only for about 2 minutes and gave no news.

Yesterday was an incredibly rotten day – a bitter N.E wind was blowing, and it rained steadily. Everything was dripping wet & muddy. Part of the trench in this post was over a foot deep in water. There were no papers as it was Monday. Both my post and **Lloyds** began to fall in under the wet: they are rottenly built. However it was no use growling (sic).

I made a paper album for your dear photos. **Lloyd** and I then had sailing matches with little wooden boats down one of the trenches. You would have laughed to have seen us, dear, nearly up to our knees in water, puffing the boats on. However, the day eventually passed.

I slept well last night that is from ten to four. The advantage of being back in these posts is that you are not in immediate contact with the enemy infantry & so it is possible to turn in for a sleep at nights. **Johnnie Sutcliffe** came back from leave the day before yesterday, but I haven't seen him. He has not been up.

Well, little sweet heart, there's the news. I am just longing for the day when I shall see you again...

27th October 1915

Arthur feels the need for a haircut; the posts under his command are collapsing after the recent rainfall – they are badly made in Arthur's opinion; Ainsworth is moving in to Chocolate Post, as Factory Post is being targeted by the enemy; the endless mud is rather getting to Arthur.

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Wednes 7.45 am

... Thanks awfully for your letter of Saturday. I am glad to hear you're fit & well, dear, and am looking forward to your news of the wedding!

Here there's very little news except that my hair is getting longer & longer & I don't know when I am going to get it cut! Yesterday DG was pretty fine, but very cold. Both sides were more active with aeroplanes & shells – making up for lost time. I did the rounds in the morning; these posts are rottenly made – about half of them fell in under Monday's rain. It was very wet & muddy getting round. I was up to my knees in it most of the time.

Yesterday afternoon **Tabor** came in and **Wilcox & Ainsworth**. **Ainsworth** is coming over here to live. They've been 'crump'ing the Factory Post where he has been with **Wilcox**, and it's a good deal too unpleasant.

I'm getting just a wee bit tired of the mud. This is a growse! So don't take it seriously dear. No more news of leave – I hope to hear to-day...

27th October 1915

Arthur hopes his letters have started to reach Dollie once more; the trenches are in an awful state – muddy water up to their knees; Arthur is not impressed by the shoddy trenches left behind by the 19th Division; leave may be postponed until they are back in billets.

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Chocolate Post, Thurs 8.15 am

Thanks awfully for your dear letter of Sunday. I cannot understand, little one, how it is that you have not heard from me. At any rate, you must have heard by now – and know that I am fit & well...

The weather is pretty miserable here – wet & very muddy – so that it's impossible to keep clean. The trenches are in a filthy state. I went the rounds with **Beresford** yesterday. We were up to our knees in mud & water nearly all the way.

Ainsworth came over yesterday morning. He is sleeping with **Lloyd** down the road but messes here with **Lloyd** & myself. Yesterday some sappers came up to try & patch things up where they'd fallen in. But the 19th Division (one of K's) who were here before us had made such a shoddy job of it that it's a hopeless task.

Today, alas, it's wet & mucky again. It seems months since I was clean! So little sweat heart, that's all my news. Leave as far as I can gather from **Beresford** is postponed until we are out again...

29th October 1915

Dollie has been under the weather; the recent poring rain has caused more of the trenches to fall in and the dugouts to leak; Arthur is sleeping with a waterproof sheet over his bed, so is one of the lucky ones; leave is looking more and more likely.

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Chocolate Post, Friday 7.45am

I'm awfully sorry to hear that you hav'n't been fit. Do take care of yourself, little sweetheart mine. I want you to be always well & happy. Please heaven, you will be yourself again by now. God bless you & look over you.

Yesterday it poured again – more mud, trenches all falling in and dug-outs leaking. However, the dug-out we feed in is dry, as yet & where I sleep I've rigged up a waterproof sheet over my bed, so there we are!

Just after I had written to you yesterday morning, I had news that **Wilcox's** leave was through, also **Sammy's**. **Wilcox** was awfully bucked. He went down to HQ last night & is off again to-day, **Sammy** either to-day or to-morrow. Jove, I am looking forward to mine... Besides a week off would do me good, I'm sure. I'm feeling a bit stale.

Well, little one, I must end, for it's getting on and I'm going down to HQ this morning at 8.30. Remember me to all I know ...

30th October 1915

Arthur is in a “growsing” mood – the Divisional Commander thinks it ridiculous Arthur has been living in the mud all this time; Arthur agrees – especially as the staff at HQ have been living in relative comfort, with their valises, for the last three weeks!

Arthur to Dollie

London House, Satur. 8.20am

Thanks awfully for Tuesday's letter – you're a priceless dear to write so regularly. I live for you & your dear letters. If you could only see our impatience till the mail arrives!

I'm just longing for leave. **Wilcox's** was postponed a day, so he leaves to-day with **Sammy**. **Sammy** will give you my news if you ring up Mrs S. Thank God, dear, I am fit and well. The weather is very dull & damp, though it didn't rain yesterday.

I went into HQ yesterday morning at 9 but w back soon after 10. Later on **General Jacobs**, the Divisional Commander, came round. He thought it perfectly ridiculous, my being up here, nominally in charge of 15 men. But **Beresford** is like that, very finicky & fussy. Never content to leave his subordinate to do their job. However, I hope now the Brigade will step in. We have a permanent “growse” against HQ for they've been living in comfort with their valises these past three weeks – as indeed they always do – while we've been “pigging” it in the mud – and that unnecessarily, as the Divisional GOC said yesterday. However, I've had my “growse” my little safety valve. You darling. I hope its not awfully dull. Every soldier is supposed to have his growse & it helps awfully to get it off one's chest...

And now I'm just longing for leave...