

Feb 21

H'd Qrs I Cav Div

PG/12.10 (32)

1 OF 4

My dear Mrs Mrs

We have had rather an amusing day to day. It was a glorious sunny day just like spring. The General & I left here about 10 or so & went up to Chirel with the 1st Bde. We saw Tommy Pilman who was awfully pleased at getting his C.B. We then went on into Baillieux & saw Gen Pouligny who commands the 3rd Corps. The Gen talked to him for some time. I had a long talk to Pembroke his A.D.C. They had no news. They have got Saxons in front of them (IV & VII Div) who are very peaceful & never attack or make themselves unpleasant. We then went over to the II Corps to see Gen Ferguson, who was out but they had no news except that they are sending the 9th, 13th & 15th Inf Bdes to take over the line now held by the 28th Div.

Everybody is very fed up with them & they say that their staff work is absolutely rotten. We then went on to Stenvert to try & see Col Shay who was the Gambia's Bde Major in Africa but he was out. Then we went on & had lunch with Gen Coffey. We had quite a cheery lunch & left about 3:00 & went on to Estancia to the Hd Qrs of the VIII Div. The Gen went & had a long talk to Gen Davis. I saw Hays for a few minutes. He was looking awfully well & asked for you. It is splendid he & Archie both getting Brevets.

He had to go away soon after we arrived so I didn't see much of him.

Gen Davis took us round the work house which really is an awfully well run show. They have got a big skinning factory - when the men come into reserve they go there & have baths. They have got about six great big tubs that hold about 10 or 12 m

2. The men go in a tie up their clothes with
 their identity discs & their under clothes are
 thrown in a pile. While the men are having
 their bath their clothes are taken away &
 Kestings powder is put in all the seams & the
 clothes are all ironed to kill the bugs.
 Their under clothes are taken away & disinfected
 & washed. Then the men get clean ones.
 Of course they have all been worn before by
 somebody else but they look beautifully
 clean & fresh. The dirty clothes are
 washed & get ready for somebody else.
 They have got about 120 women there washing
 cleaning & mending clothes. It really is an
 awfully well run show & all seems to go
 so well. On the way back we called
 on Gen Rowley & he went on to Cav Corps.
 I saw Grace, he was looking very fit but
 doesn't like having had to leave the old 2nd
 Bde. He has been made a Brigadier Major
 & is doing G.S. O II at Corps. Of course it is

a good job but it's not so cheap at the
2nd Bde. Paget in the 11th Hussars has gone
from Corps to be Bde Major of the 2nd Bde
& Cecil Howard has taken his place at Corps
as G.S.O. 3. Great alterations! Fairy
has gone from the 2nd Bde to be Signal
Officer of the III Cav Div & Denis Bingham
in the 15th Hussars has taken his place.
So the little family party has been rather
broken up. Rattle & Geoff are the only two
left now. Both very worthy but neither of
the great staff officers.

We heard at Corps that the 16th Lancers
have had rather a rotten day. The
Germans mined 50 yards of a line &
blew it up at 6 or this morning. They
had four officers killed one missing &
one wounded & 50 men killed &
wounded. Wash, Beek, Cross &
somebody else killed. Campbell wounded
Evans wounded or missing or both they

3. didn't seem to know. Dreadful
 wit it. Poor little Jim Beach
 I'm awfully sorry about him. He
 dreadful about them to all but I
 suppose if there is war there must
 be casualties "c'est la guerre" as they
 say. They have had to make new
 trenches 40 yards behind the blown up
 ones.

We heard this morning that two
 German submarines believed to be
 U 19 & 21 were caught in nets somewhere
 near Dover. What truth there is in it
 I don't know. It won't appear in the
 papers in any case as I believe that
 the admiralty are keeping those things
 pretty quiet. I believe they have
 put away several submarines lately
 & haven't said anything about it.

When the Germans find that they don't
 come back they will get kind of sending

then out. I hear that the boats
are running again tonight. Gentle
the vet or Bob & co. came over last
night & said that the old boat
went along at a great rate.

It would be terrible if they stopped
as it would mean no letters or papers
or anything. And ones letters these lines
are the only interest of the day.
I always look forward to getting my
mail.

The G, H one, Fils & H address
go up to Ypres on Tuesday.

Moose & Bob Lang get go to
Poperinghe. Percy & Wilford
stay here & Percy goes up every day
from here in his car. I stay here
till next Sunday & then go up &
Harden comes back. We wait
for 5 days then. The 1st Bed go
in a Tuesday for 5 days & then the 2nd Bed

5 I think I told you that my cat
 arrived quite safely about 4 days
 ago. You can't have got my letter
 by the 10th. I'm sorry that you
 didn't know Mrs Howard. But
 she knows you & you may run
 across her again sometime.
 Who is Major B. whose wife has
 a hot stick? I can't make it out.
 Makey sounds rather a roller like
 way he goes on at 16 yth. There
 looks just joined. don't seem to
 realise the seriousness of this
 slow & an incline to look at it
 as a jolly. It may find it
 d-d useful to him or day to
 know how to handle a mouse.
 And if he don't learn now its so
 much good time wasted. Give him
 up & don't let him make a mess
 of things. If he is sick let him

go sick but not be sick on day
a dancing the next. If he's able
to dance he ought to be able to
do a music course. Sorry that is
his but on your own not from me.
I'm looking forward to having what
Loely Jane says to John. I like
her awfully & am sure she will be
nice. but I don't like him at all.
I don't think he can be a nice man.
Madness don't think much of him.
I got him talking about him one
day.
It is 11.30 with him in C J
have no more news.

Best love dear me Mrs

Your loving

Pat

P.S. What about returns to the house. Proof it
if this come off. Make the old man do
what it looks like