

CUS417/55.12 G.R.O.

I have written Barbara

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin)

[Oxford] Thursday 27th (Aug., 1914)

Dearest Sue

Thursday p.m.

I am growing impatient for home letters - none since I saw you leave that ship - when I felt as though the very bottom had fallen out of everything and all effort was useless - Even now it seems that way, if one stops to think what is going on - and with no reason or sense in it all. Having so many ships off, makes a great difference and everything moves more slowly with many men off and such enormous amount of work to be done. Every day is full. After looking at the Times in the morning I see Parsons & see on how little food we can get on - and at 10 o'clock open the Sewing Guild. The Army order of 400 shirts is finished and we are now working with a large organization in the Town Hall - a good sum of money has been given & loaned & at the Town Hall people can buy articles of all kinds to make - returning them there. We also have a table of such things at our room but most [of] our work is being done by people who like to sew in the room - I think there must be 8 machines - There are many ladies - particularly the Oxonian type of Maiden lady who has only money enough to exist on & not enough to buy materials - who can come there to work if material is provided. Also strangers - people from Hotels & lodgings - ever so many Americans. I am there until 4.30 every day - I feel I must do a lot - having missed the great rush. I do not suppose there is an idle person about - although some [had] better stop sewing - they do it so badly - Mrs Max Müller Jr is simply wonderful cutting out - sewing - knitting - never idle a moment. Lizzie is a good cutter. Yesterday was a very depressing day - but today the news about Russia's advance and the possibility of Italy coming in has cheered everyone. Poor Margaret Pearce is distracted. Her husband is with his regiment, Hussars in Norfolk - and probably going abroad in 2 weeks. He wants her to take the children and go to America, which of course is absurd and she will never do it. The Bullitts have had a most awful time - waiting at Southampton since last Saturday to get to Dinard. I have not been able to go to Loulie as I can't take the motor over the Downs on account of Troops and all trains are cut off in that direction - I can't find out about Collis - have written to Ireland - Principal of [unclear] got back today via steamer in Italian steamer from [unclear]

Our Christ Church Missioner has just gone and left Ralph Sherman in charge, he poor chap has just lost his mother and is very unhappy - she died after an operation in Montreal & he knew nothing. Oh - how thankful I am Mother is not here to worry over this! Audrey Merry got home from Switzerland last night, Mr Merry in St Petersburg. Josephine Phelps is in Antwerp in a Hospital in the Zoo - nursing with Red +. We have no patients yet - Willie is ordering a Colonels uniform as he can't go into the Wards without it - & is Honorary Col of Oxfordshire Reg. He is Consulting Physician to a Hospital in Devon - paid for by Mr Singer & being arranged by Lady Randolph Churchill & other Americans - also a Canadian Hospital supported by Canadian Masons near Netley - & 100 Canadian nurses coming.

Revere has gone up the river with Jack Slessor for a few days - There was nothing for him to do here and he looked pale & worried.

Good night

Grace.

(over)



60547/55.12 G.R.O.  
(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin, Aug. 27, 1914 - 2)

[Oxford] Thursday 27th (Aug., 1914)

Thursday p m

Dear old Puss died on Tuesday afternoon - a telegram came from Florence at Dinard - Really it is all too ghastly. Loulie has never been able to get across the Channel from Southampton. I wrote she missed the boat & Orville was arrested as a German spy - he got out but has evidently been watched. We have telephoned each day - & Hallie went to Loulie from Aldershot yesterday. I found there is no train from here - & I could not take the car over the Plain & Downs - for it is solid with troops, & motors are constantly requisitioned on the road if officers need them. The boat to go over in has been held up at Southampton on account of moving Troops - The(y) hope to leave tonight. Loulie is afraid to go not knowing when she can get back and she is unwilling to remain in France - She sent me a note she had from Bertha Lucas who is evidently in Dinard - saying on the 16<sup>th</sup> Puss was found in the morning sleeping heavily - and that was the end - lingering a week - Florence was ill in bed with Influenza & Temp 103 - and yesterdays telegram said she was still in bed - There is not much use in writing all this but you can let Sallie hear - she loved Puss - Oh, I am so thankful she has been spared all this dreadful time - Hallie is allowed to be at Headquarters with her husband. an idle person about - although some (had) better stop sewing - they do it so badly - Mrs Maxwell Jr is simply sitting out - sewing - knitting - never idle a moment. Lizzie is a good cutter. Yesterday was a very depressing day - but today the news about Russia's advance and the possibility of Italy coming in has cheered everyone. Poor Margaret Pearce is distracted. Her husband is with his regiment, Hussars in Norfolk - and probably going abroad in 2 weeks. He wants her to go. [Additional] The Merediths & Edmund are coming for Sunday - they sail next week - Jack McCrae was coming but sails tomorrow to join artillery at Valcartier Camp & return as their Surgeon. I cant take the motor over the Downs on account of Troops and all trains are cut off in that Lists of Americans still missing, names published by Consul & Bankers - Principal of Brasenose got back today via Steerage in Italian steamer from Genoa - Our Christ Church Mission has just gone and left Ralph Shaw in charge. I know you will be interested in everything but fear others will be boared to death - but I must write - I cant read - except papers - not here to worry over this! Amy Harry got home from Switzerland last night. Mr Harry Cabots & Mrs G- are still at Islip - called here today and a Doane Gardiner woman who is pestering W.O to death to get an actor brother into the army - uniform as he cant go into the Guards without it - & is Honorary Col of Oxfordshire Reg. He is Consulting Physician to a Hospital in Devon - paid for by Mr Singer & being arranged by Lady Randolph Churchill & other Americans - also a Canadian Hospital supported by Canadian Masons near Netley - & 100 Canadian nurses coming.

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