

now & just now
 fascinating -
 weighs 22 lbs -
 is very good
 tempered. Pats
 little Ben (1)
 doil of her face
 as they love at
 Gravesend still
 with his people
 doil of her ears
 but in her photo
 she is charming
 3 months
 old.
 Joan is
 again in
 Graves
 but in at the
 base of post
 is ordered to
 the Col: which
 keeps him fairly
 safe.

THE MEADOW,
 GROSVENOR ROAD,
 SHINFIELD,
 READING.

16.3.16

Dearest Mary.

I am wondering how
 you are getting on, & how Isa is
 progressing. I do hope she is better
 & that the free air & massage & your
 loving care of her is working a cure.
 We are having such a dreadful
 winter this year, we have just had
 3 weeks of deep snow & blizzards
 & intense cold & bitter winds - & now
 it has thawed to pouring rain. I
 don't really know when we last saw
 the sun, but it seems ages since -
 it makes these depressing & dreadful times

I really don't think
the world
sending as
it is a very poor
sorted - but still
I'll send it just
to show you I am
thinking of you & do
I hope I have to
you, Iba - diggie
as per thing to
yourself
from your friend
as always
Heather

still worse to bear - Walter
always says nothing can ever
be quite so bad if the sun is shining
& I quite agree with him - he & the
family are feeling the cold & grayness
of this climate most awfully just
at present. Dad keeps on
about the same - I don't think he
gains any strength or flesh, but
perhaps we can't expect it in the
winter as he can't ever get outside
the house at all. The war
drag along - now the great excitement
is the "married man" question. They

are holding indignation meetings all
over the country at the very idea of
being called up as there seems a very
~~general~~ general idea that lots
of the single men are hiding in
"reserved" occupations to escape.
Certainly the whole conduct of
some of the Englishmen - their
war - has been a complete "eye
opener" to most English women:
one's old idea was that an Englishman
was always a fighting man - ready
& willing to defend his home & country
and to fight for his women & children.
Behold him now at the time of his
country's need just a shop man;
more concerned with cash than honour,
sneaking, skulking & lying to get out of
serving, and hiding behind his wife's
skirts - willing - anxious to let other

P.S. I have been enjoying Stephen Jackson's books about Russia so much. Have you read them? The way of Heather & the way of Mary. Russia of today etc. And you too, they're all by Henry James Galsworthy.

braver men strike the blow for
his family & country & defend
his home for him while he sits
tight & takes in the extra pay he
can earn by the fact of the other man's
absence. It all makes one feel
awfully bitter, knowing as one does
so many splendid men who have
given their lives so freely & are gone
for ever & what a our race
go to be like in the future with only
the slackers & shirkers & such like
left to carry it on & produce
the next generation? Hughes, the
Asst. Prime Minister made a splendid
speech last night about trade after
the war. he seems to be just the man
we want - if only this rotten Government
will attend to anything the Colonies say.

THE MEADOW,
GROSVENOR ROAD,
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(2)

everyone is so sick of these shuffling
ways they never do anything till the
pressure of public opinion forces them
up to it. They just draw their salaries
& sit there. But the country even their
own supporters is thoroughly disgusted
with them now. hardly the staunchest
Liberal can say he is contented with the
way the war is being conducted.

We had an awfully interesting time
a week or two ago when we had
a visit from Capt. Wright in
the Air Service. He was sent home
from France on promotion & had
a few days leave. He is now a Flight
Commander & Captain. tho' he has

RFC

only been in the ~~RFC~~ a year
(you remember he used to be an
Morris Dancer Instructor) he is
such a splendid little thing, so full
of interest & energy, & he is simply
loving the life & what a time they do
have in that service. nothing like it
for danger. The awful risks they
run really each time they go up, to
say nothing of night ascents, ~~the~~
reconstruing over the German lines
daily, "spotty batteries" etc. he
has made a record in "long time up"
flights too. - was over Birmingham
just before the last Zepp. raid for $7\frac{3}{4}$
hrs.

We are so hoping that new Pemberton
Billing has actually got into Carhammet
solely on air-service interests that
something will be done to rescue the
air-men from the horrid state of
confusion & waste to which they is in
now. fancy the Army & Navy having
to compete for machines & material
& no one knowing what to do when
these Zepps come simply because the
Services can't agree who is to have
Command - 'just orders'.

I am writing under most uncomfortable
circumstances so forgive this grumbly
letter: I am "invigilating" the
exams this year owing to lack of
staff to do the usual work, & I'm
sitting at a table on a platform looking
down into the big Hall with about
sixty students seated at desks in rows
below me, writing, with papers, & in

various stages of agony! It is very
cold - yet stuffy! The Hall, & I have
sat here from 9.20 this morn: & have
to remain till 12.30. Then I come
in again at 1.50 & stay till 5 p.m.
Brutal, isn't it. This goes on all
weeks, but luckily I have only 3
days of it and a victim has been
secured for the remainder of the time.

Alas! no lovely Easter trip abroad
this year - we may go for a week to
London to stay at a hotel & go & see
the family abt the flat & do a few
pictures & a theatre or two - but really
one doesn't even want to do that!
and it is a relief to get a laugh at
any thing now-a-days. even things seem
always sad now. Our two "new"
babes are flourishing. Walter's little girl
is a sweet little fat bonny 5 month's old

now a just most
fascinating -
weighs 22 lbs -

is very good
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as special hug to
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From your friend
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