

the week before. We have had to do at all now as so many of our staff are gone, we want to keep things so so we take on their work. I expect you are all kindly working furiously like all of us. I

THE MEADOW,

GROSVENOR ROAD,

READING.

Nov: 4th 1914

Dearest Mary.

I suppose it will be getting on for Xmas when this reaches you and I must just send a love to give you all my best love & thoughts as ever for it; but what a Xmas it is likely to be: different indeed from any other in our lives up to now.

The world seems a strange and horrible place now. more unnatural than ever doesn't it? & one just goes on from day to day putting off thinking and grieving as much as is

Does seem so
futile to sit
knit,
today was
one of those
Lots of love
dearest, man
thought I wish
you were here
to talk to
your friend
as always
Heather

possible in order to keep ~~the~~ down
and trying to do any little
thing to help. These daily lay
Casualty lists are awful & when one
sees the names & ages of the men
one knows all our best & youngest
& bravest are going in hundreds.

Yesterday a train load of wounded
came into the Berks Hospital (which
is next building to the College) and it
is flying the Red & flag & Union
Jack now. The Red & VADs, at
Mortimer, Healey & Theale have all
wounded now & are very busy: so we

expect ours to be mobilised next.
& we drill every day after Coll. hours.
we are having bathrooms & lavatories
added to the Coll. Hall which is to be
our Hospital. our lot are a very smart
& handy set of girls now, & will make
very good nurses. Rit & I are both
full Red & nurses now, & we have a
nice lot of probationers as well.
Tom is a private in the Border
Regt. in Perwilt, & they live & sleep
in a Drill Shed there, he & 12 men
are on duty at a fort & guarding the
bridges at night, to release the Regulars
who have gone to the front. he is very
well - likes the work but it must
be hard & cold for him as he never
was a very robust man & has a
bad circulation & feels the cold much
besides being over 45 now. Poor Walter

is dreadfully restless at being out in the
Argentine just now, & he has written to the
War Office for a commission, & I went also
to see Sir Reg Brado who is a permanent
Sec: there the other day. but he said he had
written Walker ahead not to come home as
he could not be taken till all younger
men were used up, & the W O has lists
of hundreds of men who had been thro'
the S. Africa war like Walter & were
laying the go. but Kitchener won't have
them yet. I should it be surprised at
any time to have a cable thro' W
was coming home to go in as a private
and it's horrid waste as he is so well
qualified to be an officer & so good
with horses & men & over rough country.
Herbert Hastings our cousin lost his Colonel
last week; Col Ward he died of wounds
received in one of the battles round Ostend
a great friend to Herbert; his wife & daughter
are staying at the Rectory now with Aunt Sara.
Col Ward had just been mentioned in despatches.

The weeks
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as so many
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things going

So we
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their
work

THE MEADOW,

GROSVENOR ROAD,

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I expect
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& working
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all of us. It

Nov: 4th 1914

Dearest Mary

I suppose I will be

Does seem so
futile to sit &
knit.
Why wasn't
one a man!

Lots of love
dearest, many
thoughts. I wish
you were here
to talk to
your friend
as always.

Heather

possible in order to keep ~~it~~ down
and trying to do away little