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so much to relieve them. They simply gasp and struggle for breath until the heart can no longer stand the strain. Sometimes it is more than a day before they die. Our artillery in this case prevented the Hun from leaving his own lines and I am sure that it gave him such a pounding that he was sorry afterwards the whole sky was lit up with the flashes of his guns (all night) and the sound was a steady roar or rumble in which it was hard to distinguish the report of one gun from another.

I tried to induce Sarah to go to Devonshire as the Lake district for August as I thought she needed a change and I fear the heat has been very great in Oxford. She has so far refused and is interested in

In the Field
12th Aug 1916

Dearest Mother

I fear I have not written you for a very long time, not since Sarah's return to England (in spite of my wish for her to stay longer with you) last June. I hope you will forgive me. There does not seem to be a great deal to write about and I know she keeps you well posted and I write to her every day as she does to me.

I am so glad you were able to visit London with her when she was over even if your visit was a very short one. I hoped you liked her "future home". It is a quiet

will be no more until October and perhaps not then. We have to be very patient and pray what I saw see over here the war is a long way from being ended yet although I don't think now there is the least doubt of its final outcome. Personally I cannot get home too soon but there are many that feel that way but we all want to see it through.

The Hun put gas over our front the early part of the week and unfortunately caught quite a number of our chaps in working parties. They had taken off their jackets due to the heat and their gas helmets with them and could not get them on in time when the alarm sounded. The death from chlorine

gas is very painful and it seems impossible to

tell the towns but has some advantages and is of course very dear to me.

All my family spoke in such glowing terms of your and your visit. You quite won their hearts and they thought you quite wonderful to come up as you did and move around so much and take such an interest in things.

I am greatly disappointed not to have seen Sarah early in July and doubly so as I had my leave about 25th June but had to wait the day I was going on account of a change in the regiment. Few days later I was to go again but all leave was cancelled so I have had to make the best of it. Fortunately I did not tell Sarah either time so her hopes were not raised too much although she expected me sometime then. I hear there

on the event of their second
anniversary as they were mobilized
two years ago yesterday. It was
quite a success.

It was very warm last night
and I did not sleep very much.
I always find Sunday a hard day
and miss Sarah especially then.

I am so glad to hear you are well
and can picture you in the garden
at beautiful Eardley; I only wish
I could pay you a visit.

Please remember me to Percy
and Frederick and Flora and
with very much love

Remain
your devoted son
Dhb

her work there. ⁴ She misses Mrs
Lanks very much and I fear is
lonely in the evenings as quite a
few of her friends are away for the
month. In September she
talks of moving up to a quiet
hotel in London and I hope will
like it there. I fear however it
may be warmer even then.

I find it very hard to be
separated from her as she has
become such a part (the most
important part) of my life and
everything as far as I am
concerned seems to centre around
her. Our future I feel sure will

even 14 years old and also many nuns. He told us that in the town of - where he was when the war started there was not a single woman, or girl ^(married or unmarried) over 16 that had not been violated by the Christian civilized "cultured" Germans when they went through at the beginning of the war. I have heard so many actual stories over here that I do not believe there is any exaggeration at all, in fact the whole truth has never been published as the more cultured would rather hide than publish these things. This is what has made the Belgians hate Germany with such an intense hatred.

We had a nice concert last night given by "A" Squadron

being happy when this horrible war is over and we are able to settle down once again. I long for this day and know that many others do also, but we must see it through to the bitter finish.

The parish priest paid us a visit yesterday a well educated man who spoke English quite fluently.

He was telling us that the Belgians had always leaned more towards Germany than France as past history has many times brought Flanders & France to war with each other. He says there are some things however that can never be forgotten and that is the ruthless destruction of Belgian towns by the Huns and the organized violation of their women and young girls