



1/4 KAR. UGANDA
A.P.S.

Nairobi

My dear - just back from a hurried trip up
above to find your letter - the garters - the latter
are fine & I feel very smart - thanks ever so
much.

We've had a very strenuous week - pushed off
first on a scame down the road - camped
once on the way - then more scames on
arrival & two Coys with various oddments
were ordered on up. Except for a lot of
hard work & a very few, very irregulars we
found nothing either on the border or
well over it, nor much sign of there
ever having been anything of consequence -
Still we showed the flag, picked up our
own Somalis. Perhaps a bit, & had quite
an exciting time - Unfortunately it ended
in tragedy - we arrived after travelling
all night at a certain river!, got over
before dawn & were thinking of a few
hours sleep, when over came 3 Captains &
for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour turned the place upside down -
they dropped about 300 altogether, small bombs
known as "antipersonnel" - they're dropped in

"sticks" of 5-10 at regular sort of intervals as the plane flies over the target. Quite the most unpleasant experience I've ever ~~exp~~ been through! - one lies on one's stomach & waits & one can hear if the plane is coming directly over one or not - then if it is bang goes the first salvo, bang another a little closer, then another & finally one knows the next is yours!!

The damage, however, is very little in comparison, for the whole of their expense in bombs & petrol they got one man & 2 wounded out of quite a large force in the area & dozens of lorries.

But the tragedy was ours - When it was all over I went round to see who was hit & found three in our own H.Q. about 10 yds from where I'd parked myself at first! one died almost at once with a hole in his head - & the other two we bandaged up, a shattered knee & a hole in the loin - I hated seeing these chaps knocked about; it isn't their quarrel, they were marvellous no moans or loss of control - the one with the knee, most of it had been shot away, had taken off his own puttee & put it on as a tourniquet himself & had then fired at a plane!! I was glad to find I could control my feelings & get down to them - it's always been one of the things that's worried me - but actually one only looks on it as something one can do to help when the time comes. Perhaps I shouldn't tell you these



UGANDA

Sort of grizzly things, but I've always thought that kind of convention is nonsense. I went & saw those two in hospital this morning - both pretty critical, but both quite cheery, were back a bit up the road now & build this damn camp & I hope & expect they'll move them back too to a base hospital. Suit war bloody?

It's made me realise what it must be like at home now, tho' of course they've got shelters & I'm convinced that having a shelter or a trench one wouldn't worry a bit.

Eddy came over & dined with me yesterday, he's with the Hq. Field Battery - he's trying to persuade him to come home on leave with me about Oct 1 or 2 maybe just a bit before. I think he may & I'm bringing Glanville, one of our Coy. Commanders, who was in the Kitale New Year's Eve party dressed as a boy. I think this ought to come off, but don't count too much!

Bill was over the river when we started off on our trip, but I crossed at a different place & so didn't see him - he's fit tho', for I saw Laurie Davis - they're probably back in Nairobi

but I'm not sure of this —

I'm feeling damn tired — haven't had any sleep for a week! — (gross exaggeration!) but I feel like that — reville at about 4 or 5 every day & that particular night no sleep at all — otherwise I'm very fit & while we remain here doing the Pioneer Bu's job, I shall have lots of opportunity to sleep! We're all frightfully angry about this — we've built about 6 camps already & it's damn bad for the moral of everyone. However, I don't propose to worry myself unduly over it & one can take the opportunity of a shot of leave!

I hope it rains soon with you — that's the worst part of farming & one doesn't feel it so much till one is actually doing the farming oneself — everything is looking fine when it comes "mangu" with a drought or locusts or disease.

Don't worry about the cheque-book, I've purchased another — & for goodness sake keep the peace in the house, one can't have internal combustion these days! I'm glad Kuritany has returned — give him my salams

& a kick in the pants for running away — it was nice to get Bab's wire & long may it last — the bank is worse than the site, far worse in fact, which is something to us. What an awful trick you had home! — I'll be seeing you soon — goodnight —
A best love you ever found.