

1/1 Worcestershire Yeos  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 1916

My Own Darling Angelina

I was so glad to get your parcel with the two shirts which I was needing badly - and the other things - How clever of you to get the batteries + bulbs for the electric torch, they are quite right - I like the flannel shirts best - Cotton is rather dangerous if one gets hot + has to go on wearing it when it gets cool in the evening - You might have got the size of neckband from some of my old shirts that I left behind! Never mind - these fit me very well as my neck is rather swollen in this hot weather + I have had to slit the stud holes in all my old collars! I also had a letter dated Mar 20<sup>th</sup> from you - Now I must tell you that we have had a Hell of a battle against the Arabs + Turks - We fought like lions for an hour + a half + our casualties were one flag pole broken + a horse with a bullet in his stomach (which was not discovered until after we had come home)! So you can guess it was a top hole fight - a certain number of us (I mustn't tell you the exact numbers because of the censor, but the Turks know exactly how many we were, as ~~there~~ every damned Bedouin woman + child who

hangs about the camp is a Turkish spy -  
but the authorities won't let us drive them into  
a compound) - Well as I said before, a  
certain number of us started out on Saturday night  
to go to a place "somewhere" in the desert,  
we halted for a rest & to feed the horses & some  
of us tried to sleep, but it was too damned  
cold & we had no overcoats - Then before it got  
light we started off again - We arrived  
at the place which was our objective about  
sunrise, having galloped the last 2 or 3 miles  
in the hopes of catching a few fleeing arabs &  
perhaps getting a little loot - Of course they knew  
of our approach through their Bedouin friends an hour  
or two beforehand owing to our having had to halt  
on the way - However as we galloped in to this  
place we caught sight of a few arabs running like  
hares & some on camels - The light was bad as the  
sun was rising in our eyes & there was a good  
deal of mist in the hollows, so we spurred on  
our horses & "tallyhoed" in the approved yeomanry  
style, when to our surprise ~~the~~ our advanced guard  
was fired on & then we could see a large group  
of camels & arabs & Turks on a ridge ~~about~~ about  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile ~~off~~ away - We went on a little  
further & dismounted for action in a convenient  
place & sent a party out on each flank to  
try & outflank the enemy - All went well for

a time + altho' they loosed off a hell of  
a lot of ammunition it seemed to be all over  
our heads except a few that kicked up the  
sand just in front - We pushed on a bit nearer  
+ the turks retired to a further higher ridge where  
they seemed to be quite content to stay for ever.  
Very unlike the arabs usual procedure - <sup>From</sup> Their  
confidence we conjectured they must have had  
some fairly strong supports. They were certainly in  
a strong position. Presently we found our conjecture  
was right + that ~~we~~ <sup>our outflanking parties</sup> were being ~~out~~ themselves  
outflanked. So having tested the strength of the  
enemy we ~~retired~~ <sup>retreated</sup> gracefully + sedately - We could  
get no news of the one outflanking party +  
the O.C. thought they were in considerable danger  
of being cut off so I volunteered to go + find  
them + rode off thinking myself no end  
of a hero, only to find when I got to them  
that another messenger had got to them a few  
minutes before! Personally I don't think  
there was much danger as the arabs were  
very content to stay where they were + fire  
at about 1200 to 1500 yards. which is pretty safe  
many of them danced about + yelled + fired their  
rifles off in the air! I suppose that was to  
keep things cheerful. I don't know whether

we hit any of them - I don't suppose so -  
<sup>later</sup> but I saw a few camels topple over -  
(We have just heard from intelligence reports that we  
hit two Arabs one, a man of some importance - They  
are said to be killed but one cannot rely very much  
on native reports) - I thoroughly enjoyed myself  
& hopped about to different points of view &  
tried to send messages back to camp & to our  
supports but it took some time as the ground  
was unfavourable for getting into touch with our  
helio stations which we had dropped on the way -  
We had a long & hot ride home - Our horses  
were done to a inch & could scarcely be kicked  
along through the heavy sand - It seemed never  
ending & we were tormented by myriads of sandflies -  
However we are very pleased with ourselves now -  
To me, at the time, it all seemed ridiculous -  
like a comic opera - The men were all  
smoking & joking & nobody seemed to be  
in the least danger - One has only to take  
reasonable precautions & lie down behind a few  
inches of sand hill to be quite safe from any bullet -  
I am so pleased that Claude has been recommended  
for a commission - Has he got one yet?  
It will be quite easy for him to live on his pay  
in the infantry & save a little too - I ought  
to be saving out here - There is nowhere to spend

any money in the desert. I forgot tho' that  
I bought some bangles & ear ornaments off some  
Bedouin women the other day - They are made of some  
white metal & 2/- bought the lot -  
The post is just going & I must stop - Darling  
Do take every care of yourself & our little  
Baby - I hope she has lost her cough  
by now - She seems to have had it all the  
winter - The weather must have been beastly -  
I dare say a change of air will do her good  
as soon as the weather gets <sup>a</sup> little warmer -  
I will write again to morrow - I really get  
very little time - Someone is always wanting the  
signalling officer - I was glad to get the papers  
It is nice to think that someone is thinking  
of all my little wants. I wish I could  
give you some of your wants Darling -  
With all my fondest love & kisses Darling  
& hugs - I love you dear one & think of  
you always - Ever Thine own  
Bunny's

P.S. I am damned well at present -

B. Hatten <sup>inst.</sup>

I've had no time to  
write home for about a  
fortnight - you might call &  
tell Dad it will write by next post

