

14 rue du Clos
Vevey, Switzerland

26 April 1915

My dear Wilfrid,

In case you should be wondering what on earth has become of us I send you what news there is with our love and regret that we cannot meet this spring -

We are now pleasantly settled in Vevey - but for the first four months of the war we were in Austria without direct news from home and fed up on Austrian & German newspapers gloating on our misfortunes. Egypt was lost, India in a blaze of insurrection, our navy beaten & desolation in store

for us after we had been ruined
by paying for the whole war -

You can fancy what joy it was
to arrive in Switzerland at the end
of November & hear the truth - I
could not believe my ears at first -

Sargeant and an army doctor
(retired) called Armstrong - with the
title of "Major" on all his luggage -
joined us in July - Armstrong got
put in prison in Trent & had rather
a bad time for a month or two -
The rest of us were always well
treated - Even when gendarmes
with fixed bayonets came to the
small village among the dolomites,
Collfuschg, where we were and took

our pictures, sketch books, umbrellas,
caskets, letters, &c. They did it with
smiles & apologies - These things were
sent back from Innsbruck after a
week or so not much the worse - at
that same village a lot of soldiers used
to come to our inn at night, having
escaped from their quarters three miles
away, & make night hideous by their
drunken brawls below our bedrooms -
There was a serious fight one night &
a soldier is said to have been killed -
at any rate he was never seen any more.
If they had turned nasty to us we should
have been helpless -

Sargeant went to England at the end
of November & as we could not return
to Munich, where our home is, we
thought of staying at Brixen in South Tyrol

I got leave to go there, But we had only
been there a day when a hint came from
a friend at high quarters that we had better
leave Austria by the first possible train &
saying that passes had been made out for
us to go to Switzerland. So here we are -
all our belongings in Munich are sequestered
& we cannot even get clothes - but we
have some very charming friends who do
not mind apparently - among these are
two Persians the widow & daughter of
Malcom Khan who used to be Persian
ambassador in London - I remember his
name but cannot think how I come to know
it - Do you remember about him?

I hope the war is not causing you more
trouble and anxiety than is falling to the
lot of most of us & that your sons are
all safe -

Marianne joins in best love to
Mrs. Meynell & yourself and any of
your family who remember us &
I am

always yours
Adrian Stokes