

4603

Dehri Bridge
Bengal

5th Oct /98

no 25

My dear Pippe,

The dash for freedom was a great success and I returned here on Saturday having had eleven days at Simla.

I started on the afternoon of the 14th for Mughal Sarai the route being

Dehri to Sasaram	12 miles	trolley
Sasaram to Mithania	30 "	drive
Mithania to Karmnasa	14 "	trolley
Karmnasa to Mughal S.	18 "	ballast tram

The idea was to get to Karmnasa the same night, sleep there, and go on to Mughal S. in the morning &

catch the up mail at 11.30.

What happened was, I started on the trolly at 13 o'clock & at the same moment a drop of rain fell and a gentle zephyr fanned the back of my head; after 1 mile the drop of rain had become a waterspout and the zephyr a typhoon and by the time I had got to Kuchama ~~It~~ was ~~at~~ 8 o'clock at night I was a mass of pulp and quite incapable of moving another step - It was still pouring in torrents and the wind was now blowing at right angles to the course -

There is a rest house at Kuchama and luckily for me Thomas was there with dinner, so I determined to stop there the night & start early ~~for~~ next morning. The whole night it roared with pain and when I started next morning at six it was worse than ever and the wind was now raging in my teeth - In five minutes I was again soaked to the skin and the trolly could hardly move against the wind - Half way between K & H is the river Durganti the bridge over which is not finished so you have to be ferried over in a sort of corral This was the most perilous part

of the journey as there was a very high flood and strong current & several times I thought my last moment had come - However I got across safely & proceeded on another trolly - It took 4 hours to do the 14 miles and when I got to K I was so wet & cold and miserable that I could not have gone on even if I had got there in time to catch the train which I didnt - I have never seen such rain before - It made big floods in the rivers here, and in Behar near Mozufferpore the whole country was flooded out the railway line breached

bridges broken and a tremendous
lot of damage done -

My troubles were now over
& I caught the mail all night
next day and arrived at
Simla on Saturday evening
where Dick met me - He had
got a Rifle Brigade youth
staying with him so could not
put me up but had got me
a room at the Club -

Grace was rather seedy, in
fact most of the time I was
there she was in her room
with a bad sore throat, but
she was recovering when I
left. I must leave the
account of my doings in Simla

to be continued in our next
as the post is just going.

I am up to my eyes in
files which have accumula-
ted while I was away &
which I had fondly hoped
that the villain Scott would
dispose of. Palmer is
coming out by next mail

Y^r loving

Ralph

3