

Letter from Mary Ruth Brooke to Geoffrey Keynes, 6 March 1916
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Note: Typed transcript created for this project from a manuscript transcript held by the Manuscripts department at the Cambridge University Library.

'24 Bilton Road

Rugby

6. March. 1916

My dear Geoffrey

Many thanks for your letter of March 1st. I wish very much that I had known you were in London as I was staying there at the same time + if I had seen you I might have made you see things differently. I don't for a moment regard your refusal to write something in the memoir as a slight to Rupert's memory + I can see your point of view but I wish you would look at the matter from my point of view + re-consider your decision.

I dislike more than words can say, the idea of Rupert's Memoir being Eddie Marsh's. He never knew Rupert at all well except one side of him + that only for a short tie + has really no right to assume that he did. I don't

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For a long time I ... his wishes about

the memoir (which he had prepared without consulting me at all) + I have only consented now on condition that some of Ruperts real old friends like you + Dudley would write about him. Eddie would write to you himself So I don't know what was said but I told him I wished you to write as much as you could with no question of pages or time (possibly his letter to you was written before I said this). I hate Rupert being ~~see~~ presented to the public through Eddie's eyes alone + feel sometimes almost as if I must publicly disown it. Eddie knows exactly what I think for I have told him. It is in order to avoid this that – I am so deeply anxious for you + Dudley to help me. I feel so terribly about it. I am absolutely certain that Rupert himself would have hated it. I quite believe that Eddie was very fond of him but I do o hate him making a “cult” of him. I am quite

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sure you do too + all of Rupert's real friends. I am so alone now with no one to help me in these things. If only I had Alfred. My own people would simply say, “Have your own way scribed [E. Learsk]”

+ perhaps I ought to have done this more
firmly at the first. Now I am letting
Eddie to wait a bit. Forgive me if
I write too vehemently but I feel it
all so terribly for my Rupert's sake.

Yours very sincerely

M.R. Brooke

My wish + present intention is that the
Memoir should consist of accounts
by different friends with R.s letters
+ all compiled by Eddie.

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