

Be Strong—Play the Man.

## Regimental Institute

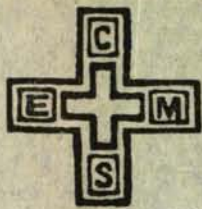
18 August 1914

My own dear Hazel,

Your letter today was a pleasant surprise, and it was very good indeed of you to send it. It helped me wonderfully through a hard day's work. It does seem absurd that you are here in the town and I cannot see you, but have to write. One might as well be in gaol. And it is only necessary to restrict us because a lot of filthy swine would go and get drunk if they were let loose. There was absolutely no leave granted this evening.

After begging and pestering for days, I have been told that there is no chance of getting a day's leave to go to Timaru, so I have just written to Mother to ask her to come up. Even then I must not expect to see much of her, but we are not sailing till Monday or Tuesday at the earliest, and I expect there will





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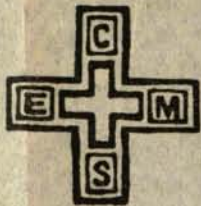
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be general leave again on Sunday evening, and an hour or two before we go on board the boat, so I have recommended Mother to come up on Saturday. I have high hopes of getting leave one evening before then, but I will not be sure till I have the pass in my pocket, so I will just have to take my chance of seeing you.

There is a great crowd writing letters here in the evening. There are two long writing-tables, seating about eighty, but you have to wait a long time for your turn. I felt at first as if a public censorship must be going on over my shoulder and that no doubt accounts for the scrappiness of my letter last night, for which I must apologise. I am getting used to it now - of course no one really takes any notice of what you are writing.

I am afraid the college function tomorrow evening will be





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rather a failure, if it depends on the presence of our contingent. I don't see how half of them can possibly get leave. However, I have not seen the college men today, but I shall do so presently, and if they have not got leave perhaps I can work it too.

Our kits are to be carefully inspected before we leave, and anything not absolutely necessary will be rejected, so I am afraid there is no chance for quinine tablets. However, I have no doubt such things can be bought in Europe, and I think the suggestion is an excellent one. Yes, I have a jersey, and am wearing it day and night, as our uniform coats are very poor, cold affairs.

We have had a hard day - drilling morning & afternoon in the South Park. I am rapidly getting "fit", and all the men are improving wonderfully. Good-bye now, my Hazel. With love from  
Yours truly  
Cecil.

I was glad to get it, as I have not heard from any of the others - not even Mother - and I was beginning to fear that the family thought me a fool for sacrificing my position.

Open