

not been delivered yet. Evidently, there is a weekly service again - I hope it will last. Your letter imperiously repeated the request to be told "all about everything", and added an awful threat, so I am between the devil and the deep sea - that is, the censor and you. Do you like being compared with the deep sea? Juliet made the comparison herself, and it is considered a beautiful one. Talking of old friends of the study, I have Caliban for a section commander - such an uncouth monster, harmless enough, but you know I am rather sensitive.

That brings me to what you say about ambition and promotion. I don't agree that ambition is such a desirable thing. Of course, if a man can't do his best work without it, it is a better motive than none; but generally speaking, it is the cause of all envy and spitefulness. I am quite content to do my best at whatever job I tackle, and if advancement comes my way, well and good - I have quite enough self-confidence to think myself worthy of it. In the present case, my lack of ambition has simply saved me disappointment. If I had expected or desired promotion, it wouldn't have

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD BREMEN



DAMPFER LÜTZOW

27 June

My dear Hazel, here goes my last sheet of paper, and the last envelope went last week, so I will have to trust to luck in future. We are provided with almost everything we can reasonably expect, but writing material is one thing they completely overlook. The "Tomnies" in France have a great advantage over us there: they can write home for any jolly thing they want, and get it within a week or so. Still they have far tougher fighting to face than we, and I wouldn't care to swap them.

Perhaps we will get to England later on. This job ought to be finished in a few months, but I am afraid the main war is a matter of years. The Russians have had such a set-back; it will take them months to win back the lost ground, and they can't attempt it till they are much better equipped. Well, we will take it all out of the Kaiser's hide in the long run.

We got a full mail about a week ago, and a newspaper mail three days ago, but the letters belonging to the latter ha

made any difference to my chance of getting it - unless it induced me to "crawl" for it - but I would have been disappointed and bitter and "agin the government." As it is, I am too fond of fair play and too socialistic for my own good, and I don't believe one of our non-coms. would ever recommend me for promotion. They like what they call the "willing" workers, namely the ones who take a filthy, self-escalting pleasure in doing more than their share, and so cultivate shirking on the part of others. No, I threw away ambition when I hastily enlisted in the ranks, instead of waiting and pulling the strings for a commission in the reinforcements. It is true I had hopes of some sort of position on the general staff - I still think there should be some special use for a man of my education, but it is impossible for me to hear of any such opening. It is not ambition that prompts me there, only the desire to be more useful - though I must confess it would be much more congenial also. I may have made a mistake when I joined in the ranks, but anyhow it was not a mistake to be ashamed of.

Heartly congratulations on the Senior Scholarship. I felt sure you would get it somehow.

The mail is being closed all of a sudden - I will have to hurry.

I notice they got the casualty lists in New Zealand by slow degrees - it must have been very trying.

Thanks very much for your good wishes - you know how much I value them.

I am glad you liked that tent photo - I notice it has appeared in the Canterbury Times. It must have been me you liked in it - I don't think it is at all good of any of the others. You will know that Bain and Ross are dead - and all the rest are scattered, sick, wounded, or transferred to other work.

Now I must close, with lots of love to you, my Hazel,

from
Bevil

Brookfield