

S.S. "Marama"

13/1/17.

Dearest Hazel,

I have just time to get this posted if I hurry. We have just come aboard, and sail in a couple of hours. Yesterday I had an impromptu trip to the Isle of Wight - Yarmouth, Carisbrook Castle and Freshwater. It was lovely, and I am glad I didn't miss it, but it left me no time for writing as I intended. When I got back last night there was an N.Z. mail for me with a lovely long letter from you. I hate to think of missing all your letters that will be on the way here now, but

Return  
6/1/17

I can put up with it  
under the circumstances.  
I am in a good ward  
with another sergeant  
of our company. It  
seems very nice. I have  
quite a library of books.  
Mrs Hanbury sent me  
six more yesterday.

Well, I must close  
now. I think we are  
going to Port Chalmers,  
but of course you will  
know about that. I  
will be with you a few  
days after you get this.  
I am very happy, dearest.  
It is beginning to seem  
real now.

With lots of love from  
Becil.