

Avenue Road

Timaru

11/3/17.

(SUNDAY)

Dearest Hazel,

I would

like to come on Wednesday
by the first express. It
will not be necessary
for anyone to meet me -
I can just take a taxi
to the School and be
there by the time you
are free to see me. I
would not like to wait
till the second express,
as that would give me
so little time.

I can manage stairs

without the slightest difficulty - in fact I have done more stair-climbing than walking on the boat.

I was not so much excited at getting home as I expected, but my pleasure was very deep. Mother's appearance was rather a shock to me, but then I was thankful to see ~~me~~^{her} alive at all. Charlie has evidently suffered terribly also. On reaching Timaru I had to go on board

the "Marama" to get my luggage, and was held there for over an hour before I could get off again. The crowd was awful, and they were a disgusting lot of vulgar sight-seers, with no consideration whatever for our men.

I went to the High School swimming sports yesterday - Mr Thomas the head-master took me in his car - and this morning Charlie took me for a long run in the country, but I am

still very easily tired,
and intend to rest a good
deal for the next three
days. I will be fidgeting
all the time until I
see you now, but of course
it is my plain duty to
stay here for a few days.
I am doing my dressing
myself for the present,
and according to present
instructions I am to get
my discharge on April 6th,
with three weeks' privilege
leave beginning next
Saturday, but I have
appealed against it,
and hope to get it

postponed for a short time at least. It would mean that I would drop two shillings a day from my present pay, and the privilege leave (with a free railway ticket) would not be much use to me in my present state.

I have written to Wellington, and should get a reply before next Saturday, when I shall have a better idea as to what my future movements will be. I am afraid it is almost certain that I will have to go

back to hospital, but
not until the present
wound is healed.

I am just going over
to Jeanie's for tea, so I
must close now, with
lots of love to you, dear,
from
Bessie.