

260. Havan Rd
Drayton
Portsmouth

Sunday

Dearest Leslie,
now that
all my visitors have gone
I can concentrate on answering
your very welcome letter.
Joyce was here for 4 days
& Fred for a week. Then an
old friend's husband paid
me a surprise visit. So I
had my hands full, too full.
So now you are at Portland,
you certainly get around.
I can well imagine it making
you unsettled for an office
job in the future.

(2)

But don't worry about that
this war is going on for years
so why worry about so
distant a future! But just
in passing, I can not imagine
you being any happier in
Canada. You'd miss your
friends, and an office job over
there would be just as
monotonous, and they never
had much of a navy. Far
better stick to our Navy.
However I expect it will
work itself out. I shall go
to Canada and America
after the war, but as a
visitor, although I have often
thought of working my way
across America if permitted,
I want to see so much, and
my money won't last that
long. But everything depends
on this war & its length.

(3)

I see the production of boots
& shoes is to stop. The shortage
is bad enough as it is, so
I shall have to do what
other shops do, open only
for a few hours a day.
It's incredible how the
Public still want pre-war
styles, they've got a shock
coming to them now.

Ernie was stationed at
Portland for over two years
& knows it well. I expect you
will touch all the Ports in
time.

I was much amused
to read of your tobacco
rolling effort, now you
really are on your way sailor.

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I expect you could sign on for a long period in the navy but the money would not be so good at least not unless you became an officer. But it all depends on what you want out of life, variety or security.

I know how you feel about going back to office life, I could not do that again even after my own varied experiences here, which incidentally has not been so changeable as yours. You might be able to change over to other navies such as the New Zealand or Australian navy, or even the Indian Dept. There might even be, in this

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grand new world? of
tomorrow, a chance to
get into the American
Navy we are going to be
united as one, maybe!

But Ernie has the complete
answer to your problem,
"You'll be glad to get out
of it after you've finished
with this war". He says
"You'll miss your freedom,
he was offered a commission
to stay in but refused it
because he was so glad
to get out. He hated right to
the last the discipline and
the superior officers.

But I say, we don't all want
the same thing out of life,
Thank God for that else we'd
all be running the same way

I say, find out what
you want, & then go hell
for leather after it.

Good luck anyway,
have to blaine, I must
write more fan mail,
Edgar, & Tom are next
on my list.

Take care of yourself.
Glad you got home
before going to Portland.

Ernie sends his best,
Love from,

Your devoted
Sister

Blanche



15 JUNE 1860

M. M. L. W. Westaway
(C)

P/MX. 500221.

M. M. S. Attack

mess 4.
Portland, Dorset.