

57 Lansdown View
Twerton-on Avon
Bath

Aug 3rd

Dear Mrs Watts,

I received your letter yesterday. Yes, I was on S.S. 'Britannia'. I remember Petty Officer Duddridge. I saw him on deck several times. I remember asking who he was, because his beard made me think he was Norwegian! He was a Chief Petty Officer, wasn't he?

I am so sorry I can't give you any news of him. You see everything happened so quickly. We were told to remain at our own boat stations & obey orders, & the result was that we only saw those in our own little group. Our lifeboat was about the first away, we three women were told to keep in the bottom in case of machine gun fire. So I saw practically nothing of other people or other life boats.

I did hear the men in our boat say that a small boat left the raider & went round the Britannia, so very likely prisoners were taken. (I believe the Capt. & most of the ship's officers are still missing).

Or, of course, there is the possibility that one or more lifeboats were picked up by a neutral ship & landed at an enemy port. If so, the survivors would be interned & it will take a long time for news of them to come through.

I am so sorry I can give you no better news, but there is the hope that some of the missing may be prisoners. I hope good news will come soon.

Yours sincerely
Clarice E M Gale