

57 Lansdown View

Twerton-on-Avon,

Bath.

Aug. 3rd.

Dear Mrs Watts,

I received
your letter yesterday. Yes,
I was on S.S. 'Britannia' &
remember Petty Officer
Buddridge. 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
life boat was about the
first away, we three
women were told down to
keep down 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
Claire E. McCall
