

George Iceton

Dear John Letters

Quite a lot of them came to me, and I don't know why they came to me, asking how to write letters to slow the situation down. No doubt a lot of promises had been made that should never have been made to the girls in Cullompton or Wroughton or Tiverton and round about, and they came and asked me how to go about writing letters, not breaking the whatever was on off but to curb it a little bit. I had quite a job going on keeping these lads quiet. And this is how I remember standing out on the rails of the ship on the deck and the lads coming across and asking how they should go about it. They didn't want to be blunt or too blunt. Why they came to me I just don't know, but this went on for quite a while and we sent a few dozen letters away of various types. Some were just to curb things down and slow them down a bit. Having said that quite a lot of them went back to Cullompton and got married when we did come back and so we didn't stop them all by any means. Some were really badly hurt and they wanted to write back and say "Well if that's your attitude I'm off, that's it, the finish".