



steam creative writing task

1950s Letter (KS2/3)



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Captain W.M. Wacknell,
1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd
B.F.P.O. 53.
Saturday 14th March 1959

Dear Adrian,

It was most kind of you to send me a Christmas card. I regret that I am extremely late in writing to thank you for it.

I gather from the card, Pembroke College Boat Club, that you are doing some rowing, or perhaps you are an idle **cox**? Anyway whichever, if either, it is I do hope that university life suits you and that you are having some fun.

We heard yesterday that we are off to England on 20th May on the **Dunera**. I came out on her in November. Our advance party left, at very short notice, at the beginning of the month. Dick Colville is commanding it, with Chris Hinton and Granville Goodwyn in attendance. Ken Smith also went home with them, but that was to learn a little about anti tank weapons from the Somersets at Warminster before doing a course. He, Ken, again got himself emotionally entangled with a nineteen year old before leaving – floods of tears etc!

Charles Mason has left for good. He is to become second in command of one of the Aden Protectorate Levies Battalions soon. We have his second in command. Peter Gerahty is doing the job and commanding his company...

All today and last evening there have been constant bangs. **Eoka** are handing in arms and explosives. The latter are being blown up all over the place.

We now have nearly completed a camp road. Work started on it on 19 Feb!! ...

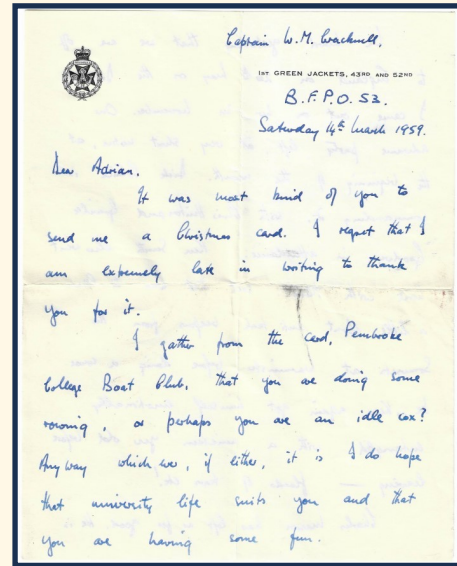
Everyone out here is in very good form, and the move is genuinely liked. Although I should like to have a little more of the Summer.

We have been talking of a big party when we return, possibly in one of the Livery Halls. I look forward to seeing you then.

With very best wishes,

Yours ever,

Martin



Read the letter from Captain Wacknell to his friend Adrian Thornton. They both served in the army together but Adrian had left to go to university. Captain Wacknell was still serving with the army in Cyprus.

Can you write a reply to Captain Wacknell?

You could write about:

- What news Adrian has about life at home
- How Adrian feels about having left the army and his friends
- How Adrian feels to hear that his friends are coming home soon

Vocabulary Key:

- **Cox:** short for coxswain, the person who directs the rowers in a racing boat
- **Dunera:** the HMT Dunera, a British passenger ship
- **Eoka:** the Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston, the Greek Cypriot nationalist organisation who the British were fighting against in Cyprus