

4/9/2



DO

Office of First Sea Lord

No. 285

NOT

~~Secretary to Second Sea Lord~~
ATTEMPT

... The First Sea Lord would be grateful for the remarks of the Second Sea Lord on the attached letter.

TO

COPY *file* -

Secretary to First Sea Lord
9th February, 1954.

THIS

Enclosure:- Letter from Mrs. V.C. Wilson.

PAGE

COPY

DO

Ms. Vivian G. Wilson,
9, Tong Road,
Leeds 12.

Dear Sir,

I hope you will pardon me writing this letter to you, but its about my son, John Christopher Wilson. Well Sir, pardon me being straightforward, but I believe in speaking the truth, well Sir, my boy was very happy at the Ganges, till he was punished for not writing an S.A. about what he saw at the Spithhead Review, when my boy got punished he had to kneel down, with a large pole at back of him, and jump like a frog, Sir, I think that was extreme cruelty, then that made him go absent again, and he got 2 strokes, then he was absent again, so they give him 14 days in cells he was put in a tiny cell, when two burly men would come round every night and say, any complaints boy, of course my son would say no, as he knew they would only make it hot for him as he is only a boy, but this sixth night when they come round my boy said, I have a complaint to make, I have never had any exercise since I have been in here, they jeered at him, and said who will give plenty of exercise, and they took him in the jim class, and the poor boy was ready all in, gasping for breath, as he was very weak with the food he got in there, 5 hard biscuits and a plate of slop, well my boy isn't used to that kind of food. Well Sir, another thing I would like to tell, I would like to say this Sir, why the boys at the Ganges are not happy and are always running away, for one thing Sir, they shouted and bully them around, and some cannot stick it Sir, that have had parents that never bullied them, and another Sir, you don't know what goes on behind the scenes, when they know your going to visit the Ganges, there is an extra special dinner put on, to make you think the boys are well fed, but believe me, Sir, those boys are hungry, and depend on their parents to send them money to go in the canteen, to buy buns or cakes, and another thing, Sir, I would like to say, Sir my boy as seen you and he has nothing but praise for you, he says you are thorough gentlemen, I say this, Sir, give me a blue-blood every time there are the proper Ladies and Gentlemen, there born to it, kind good and understanding but what

/I cannot

PAGE

DO

I cannot stick Sir, is this, those that have never been used to anything, and when they start to climb the ladder there heads starts swelling and they begin to think they are superior, but there is only one man that is that, and its the mighty God, and I have great Faith in him, I have just got up to day Sir, after been seriously ill with stomach trouble but, I know what I am talking about, I know this, they cannot hang me for being straightforward, well Sir, I will conclude my letter now, and I hope you will be lenient with my boy.

I remain,
Your obedient servant,
Thanking you,
ATTEMPT

(Sgd.) Mrs. V.C. Wilson.

TO

COPY

THIS

PAGE



Office of the Second Sea Lord
Queen Anne's Mansions
London, S.W.1

NOT

HEAD OF N.C.W.

ATTEMPT By John Christopher Wilson

The Second Sea Lord would like this correspondence made official and a report obtained from H.M.S. GANGES so that a **TO** reply can be prepared for the First Sea Lord.

2. First Sea Lord's office has sent an interim acknowledgement.

COPY
Wilson

Secretary to Second Sea Lord
10th February, 1954.

THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

N.G.W.2027/54.

13th February, 4-

NOT

Commander-in-Chief, Nore.

Copy to: Commanding Officer, H.M.S. GANGES.

ATTEMPT

I am to forward a copy of a letter which has been sent to the First Sea Lord by the mother of WILSON, John Christopher, at present serving in H.M.S. GANGES, and to request that a report be forwarded as soon as possible.

TO

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS,

SIGNED

COPY H. JONES.



THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE

NCW

CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL MAIL OFFICE
19 FEB 1954
ADMIRALTY

PC. NCW 2027/54
Office of the Commander-in-Chief, The Nore,
Admiralty House,
Chatham.

TELEGRAMS:—
Admiral, Chatham.
TELEPHONE:—
Room No. 3221.
(Extension 210 and 519).

18th February, 1954.

No. 276/116/46 **NOT**
THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.
(Copy to: The Commanding Officer,
H.M.S. GANGES.)

WILSON, J. CV, JK 912/55, ED, FIRST CLASS

ATTEMPT

Reference: Admiralty Letter N.C.W.2027/54 of
13th February, 1954.

Enclosures: The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. GANGES'
No. 870/22 of 16th February, 1954, and
enclosure thereto.

TO

Forwarded for the information of Their
Lordships.

2. I am satisfied that Wilson received fair
and considerate treatment during his training in
H.M.S. GANGES.

COPY

Shower

ADMIRAL
THIS
6. * 20 FEB 1954
REGISTRY

PAGE

DRAFT REPLY

Madam,

I am etc. to reply to your **DO** letter received by the First Sea Lord on 9th February, 1954 concerning the welfare of your son, Boy 1st Class J. C. Wilson, during his period of training in H.M.S. GANGES.

In consequence of your **NOT** enquiries have been made and the local naval authorities have satisfied My Lords that your son incurred for disobedience, nothing more than the normal routine punishment for boys **ATTEMPT** There was no evidence to support your opinion of 'extreme cruelty', or even to suggest that your boy was punished too severely. The detailed manner of his punishment was explained by your son's Divisional Officer's letter dated 24th August, 1953 to Mr. Wilson **TO** for which, amongst other correspondence on this subject, My Lords have seen.

As your son was drafted to H.M.S. **COPY** last November, it is possible that he has **X** his attitude towards the Royal Navy become more tolerant as the broader exciting life with the Training Squadron is experienced. **X**

I am, Madam,
THIS
Your obedient servant,

PAGE

Mrs. V. C. Wilson,
9, Tong Road,
Leeds 12.



~~DRAFT X.~~
DO

I am now able to reply to your letter which I
NOT
received on 9th February, concerning the welfare of your son,
Boy 1st Class J.C. Wilson, during his period of training in
H.M.S. GANGES.

ATTEMPT
As a result of your complaints I have had enquiries
^{low} made of the Commanding Officer and I am satisfied that your
son was deliberately disobedient and incurred for this nothing
more than the normal **TO** punishment. There is nothing to
support your opinion of "extreme cruelty" or even to suggest
that the boy was punished too severely. The details of his
punishment have been explained in Commander Firth's letter
COPY
dated 24th August to your husband, which was amongst other
correspondence I have seen. I find he was in fact only
confined in a cell for 3 days whilst awaiting punishment for
his desertion and during **THIS** his time he was given normal food.

As he was drafted to H.M.S. INDEFATIGABLE last
November I hope he may by now have settled down better and
may be taking more interest in his Naval career now that he
PAGE
is in a seagoing ship.

Letter to C. C. N. H.
Copy to C. O., HMS GANGES,
requesting a report.
B. R. Clark
for Hd. of N.C.W.
12. 2. 54.

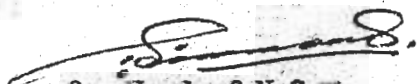
PLEASE

DO

There may be a letter from 'GANGES' missing here - one dated 21st January - see letter numbered "1". 'GANGES' cannot confirm this as Lt. James has been re-appointed "PORCHESTER CASTLE". Therefore, reference to all the correspondence should be omitted from the reply. It is not clear why Mrs. Wilson should take up this question now that her son has left 'GANGES' and although a lengthy answer was originally drafted, it is considered politic at this hour, to keep the answer short - as per attached draft.

2. Referred to 2nd Sea Lord's Office through D.W.S.C.

ATTEMPT


for Head of N.C.W.
1st March, 1954.

TO


Concern in draft reply, except for last sentence x - x
"and is showing more interest in the Royal Navy
as a career now ~~that~~ **COPY** is in a sailing
ship" would be prepared.


THIS for D.W.S.C.
2.3.54.

A copy of the first ~~draft~~ **PAGE** reply to Mr. Wilson is enclosed.

THANK YOU

8.3.54.


See. 10. 182.

From: Admiral of the Fleet Sir Rhoderick R. McGrigor,
G.C.B., D.S.O.

DO

FIRST SEA LORD,
CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF.

NOT

No. 527

8th March, 1954.

As an **ATTEMPT**

I am now able to reply to your letter which I received on 9th February, 1954, concerning the welfare of your son, Boy 1st Class J.C. Wilson, during his period of training in H.M.S. GANGES.

As a result of your complaints I have had enquiries made from the Commanding Officer and I am satisfied that your son was deliberately disobedient and incurred for this nothing more than the normal routine punishment. There is nothing to support your opinion of "extreme cruelty" or even to suggest that the boy was punished

/too ...

Mrs. V.C. Wilson,
9, Tong Road,
Leeds, 12.

PAGE

DO

- 2 -
NOT

too severely. The details of his punishment have been explained in Commander Firth's letter dated 24th August, 1963, to which you have had access which was amongst other things of the kind I have seen. I find he was in fact only confined in a cell for three days whilst awaiting punishment for his desertion, and during this time he was given normal food.

TO
As he was drafted to H.M.S. INDEFATIGABLE last November I hope he may by now have settled down better, and may be taking more interest in his Naval career now that he is in a seagoing ship.

COPY

Lead. Faithfully
THIS
H. R. [Signature]

PAGE