DO
Office of First Sea Lord

NOT

ATTEMPT

Secretary to First Sea Lord

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

COPY

Secretary to First Sea Lord
9th February, 1954.

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

PAGE
Dear Sir,

I hope you will permit me writing this letter to you, but it's about my son, John Christopher Dykes. 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 L.A. about what he saw at the hydrobad javelin, when my boy got punished he had to kneel down, with a large pole 90 back of him, and jump like a frog. Sir, I think that was extreme cruelty, then that made him go about and stung the school with strokes, then he was absent again, so they gave him a sick note. He was put in a silly cell, when two lucky students met him, every morning 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 strain nearly when they came round my boy told, I have a complaint to make, I have never had any exercise since I have been in here, they scared him, and said who will give plants and praise, and they took him in the gym class, and the poor boy was very ill in, playing for breath, as he was very weak with the roof he got in there, a hard biscuit 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 been there never bullied them, and another Sir, you don't buy in the back of the scenes, when they know your going to visit the Ganges, there is an entire 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 to the canteen, to buy buns or cakes, and another thing, Sir, I would like to say, Sir my boy an once you and he has nothing but praise for you, as you are a swell gentleman, I say this Sir, give me a blue-blood every time, they are the proper ladies and gentlemen, there born to it, kind and understanding but what

I cannot
DO NOT

I cannot stick Sir, in this, those that have never been used to anything, and when they start to climb the ladder there heads start swolling and they begin to think they are superior, but there is only one man that in that, and that is in they God, and I have great faith in him, I have just got away Sir, after being seriously ill with stomach trouble but, I knew what I am talking about, I knew 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.

(Signed) Mrs. V.C. Wilson.

TO COPY THIS PAGE
HEAD OF N.C.W.

ATTEMPT

Roy John Christopher Wilson

The Second Sea Lord

would like this correspondence

made official and a report

obtained from H.S. GANGES

so that a reply may be prepared

for the First Sea Lord.

2. First Sea Lord’s

office has sent an interim

acknowledgement.

COPY

SECRETARY, 2nd Sea Lord

10th February, 1954.

THIS

PAGE
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS PAGE.

Commander-in-Chief, Nos.
Copy to: Commanding Officers, H.M.S. CANNE.

I am to forward a copy of a letter which has been sent to the First Sea Lord by the mother of W3528, John Christopher, at present serving in H.M.S. CANNE, and to request that a report be forwarded as soon as possible.

[Signature]
H. Jones
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COPY THIS PAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 276/116/46

18th February, 1954.

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


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

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.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COPY THIS PAGE

Mr. W. C. Wilson,
3, Tong Road,
Leeds 12.
I am now at liberty to your letter which I 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.

As a result of your complaints I have had enquiries made of the Commanding Officer and I am satisfied that your son was deliberately disobedient and incurred for this nothing more than the normal retributive 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 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 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 is in a seagoing ship.
PLEASE

There may be a letter from 'GANEE' missing here - see Qtd 31st January - see letter numbered "1". 'GANEE' cannot confirm this as he, James has been re-appointed 'PREDATOR' (SIC). Therefore, references to all correspondence should be carried from the reply. It is not clear why Mrs Wilson should take up the position now that her son has left 'GANEE' and although a lengthy answer was originally drafted, it is considered political 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

TO

COPY

THIS

PAGE

A Copy of the above is sent by 8th March, 1954.

THANK YOU

S. J. S.

2.3.54.

Sec. 6. 1954.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COPY THIS PAGE

FIRST SEA LORD,
CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF.

No. 627 6th March, 1914.

I am now able to reply to your letter which I received on 9th February, 1914, concerning the welfare of your son, Boy 2nd 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. 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 or "extreme cruelty" or even to suggest that the boy was punished

Mrs. V.G. Wilson,
9, Tong Road,
Leeds, 12.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COPY THIS PAGE

too severely. The details of his punishment have been explained in Commander Firth's letter dated 24th August, 1957, in which he states that he was amongst the least severe 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.

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.