

COPY

Enclosure No. 3

G.P.O. Box [REDACTED]
 Suva Fiji
 12th November, 1974.

The Commanding Officer
 HMNZS WAIKATO
 DEVONPORT
 AUCKLAND

Dear Sir,

Junior Seaman Mark Spanswick

On Wednesday, 6th November, I received your cable saying that Mark was missing when the WAIKATO sailed for training exercises. I immediately got in touch with Commander Stan Brown, N.L.O., Fiji, and advised him of your cable and he undertook to let you know that we had no knowledge of Mark's whereabouts.

I now set out the facts as we know them. Mark wrote and said that he wanted to spend his Christmas leave in Suva. His father wrote to try and persuade him not to come here as we do not think the environment suitable for a boy of his age. Mark replied that he still intended to come to Suva in December. I went to see Commander Brown and asked if he could help in preventing Mark coming to Suva and he undertook to write to Commander Hall. After some time had elapsed Commander Brown rang me and said he had heard from Commander Hall who said there was very little he could do about it.

My husband then decided to write to you as his Commanding Officer and ask for your help. This he did on the 6th October but did not receive a reply to his letter. Mark, however, wrote on the 15th and said he had been interviewed by a lieutenant and indicated his displeasure at us writing to you. He repeated that he wanted to come to Suva and now wanted to discuss getting his discharge from the Navy. My husband replied advising him to cancel his Epic fare to Suva as we still thought that in his own interests it was best for him to remain away from Suva. He also asked Mark to write and give his reasons for wanting his discharge, the correct procedure for getting it and his future intentions. We have not heard from Mark since.

Obviously Mark is all bitter and twisted with us and I very much doubt that we shall hear from him, that is assuming that he is alive and has not done anything silly. You can imagine our concern and worry over the boy at the present time and we would like to know the least little thing you find out about the situation as soon as possible.

When Mark was in HMNZS TAMAKI we received a newsletter and I replied to Commander A.J. Tyrrell, giving my address as G.P.O. Box [REDACTED], Suva, Fiji. I quote an excerpt from that letter which I would have thought you would have in your records:

"If there should ever be a case of emergency when you may need to contact us the following phone numbers (collect) are applicable:-

Suva [REDACTED] - John Spanswick during business hours 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Suva [REDACTED] - home number after 4.30 p.m.

Both these phone numbers are unlisted so it would be advisable to note them

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in your records."

When my husband wrote to you on 6th October he gave the box number for the address not [REDACTED]. Would you please use the box number in future for cables or letters. The reason for this is that delivery to houses is very unreliable, for instance the notification from Cable & Wireless that your cable was waiting for collection lay in the garden for 16 hours before I found it thrust into a bush.

Yours faithfully,

sgd. P.L. Spanswick (Mrs.)