

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	
2	DATE TIME to	<i>ADH</i>
3	FROM by	<i>DCAS</i>
4	BEFORE DISPATCH to	
5	DISPATCH <b>MAR 1975</b>	<i>In file</i>
6	AFTER DISPATCH to	<i>ACN</i>
7	BRING UP on	
8	FILE	Date <i>4-3-75</i> In file <i>gcp</i>

14

RA Pers  
21136

28 February 1975

✓ Mrs P.L. Spanswick,  
P.O. Box [redacted]  
Hokitika,  
WESTLAND

Dear Mrs Spanswick,

Thank-you for your letter dated 11 February 1975.

Your concern for your son's whereabouts is fully understood and it is regretted that, to date, no information is to hand to alleviate your worry.

It is confirmed that a warrant for Mark's arrest has been issued to the New Zealand Police. In this connection, whilst the Navy endeavours by many means to recover absentees through its own resources, the principle agent for search for, and recovery of, deserters is the Police Force - who obviously have wider means and facilities at their disposal than the Services. This is one of the reasons why Warrants for Arrest are issued by the Services to the Police Force.

With regard to your comments on the way Mark's case was handled in his ship, I would like to explain to you how the Navy looks after the welfare of its people.

I think you may be unaware that the Navy operates what is called a Divisional System in which every rating has a nominated senior rating and an officer to whom he can go for guidance or discussion on personal problems. If these problems cannot be resolved at this level, then they will be taken to the Executive Officer (the Second-in-Command) and finally to the Commanding Officer. Urgent matters of any nature can be, and are, passed on to the Commanding Officer immediately. I have no doubt that it was within the parameters of this system that Mark was interviewed by the Executive Officer and not the

**DISPATCH**  
3 - MAR 1975  
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2

Commanding Officer, in the first instance. The welfare of their personnel is of paramount importance to all Naval Officers and please be assured that Mark's case would have been managed with understanding and mature reasoning. I hope that the foregoing assists in removing the doubts you express in your letter.

A report on the latest developments in the case has been requested from the Auckland Command and you will be informed immediately if he is recovered and of any other pertinent information. In the meanwhile, I would ask you to inform us should you become aware of Mark's actual whereabouts or have any information that could lead to his recovery.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) R. H. L. HUMBY

(R.H.L. HUMBY)  
Commodore, RNZN  
Deputy Chief of Naval Staff