

STAFF IN CONFIDENCE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

351 15 516

REF. NO. 109/1/266



TELEPHONE:
39-1522

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

P.O. Box 58, NAVAL STAFF OFFICE,
FREMANTLE, W.A. 6160.

24th May, 1968.

The Secretary,
Department of the Navy,
Navy Office,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

J.R. CJA , **REDACTED** : DISCHARGE UNSUITABLE

References : (i) ABR 697.
(ii) R.I. Article 0888.
(iii) W.L.S.P. dated 17th May, 1968.

It is submitted that early approval may be given for the discharge Unsuitable of the abovenamed recruit.

2. CJA entered J.R.T.E. LEEUWIN in July 1967 and is now due for leave and posting on completion of training. He has been categorised as EM.

3. The attached Form AS.222 and accompanying documents are relevant.

4. CJA deserted on 29th April, 1968 in company with another recruit who entered J.R.T.E. in April 1968 and they eventually surrendered to the Civil Police at Kalgoorlie on 5th May, 1968, being returned onboard LEEUWIN on 8th May, 1968. From investigation following this offence, it appears that CJA has never been popular or fully accepted within his own Division. Although there is mention of assault in the attached papers, it appears evident that CJA has in fact brought this trouble upon himself by his own attitude and behaviour.

5. The report by the Senior Psychologist is most relevant and although I feel at this stage that this recruit should be made to take up his posting to the Fleet, I cannot see any point in burdening a ship with what will be an ever increasing administrative and compassionate problem. From his background and proven instability, it is only a pity that he has been retained this long and been the cause of so much wasted effort.

6. His discharge Unsuitable is therefore strongly recommended as his further retention would only be to the detriment of the Service. It is requested that an early decision may be signalled in view of his pending passing out. (4th June).

(3)

NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
WEST AUSTRALIA AREA

STAFF IN CONFIDENCE

17th May, 1968.

WELFARE REPORT.

JR1 CJA

REDACTED

JR CJA came to see me many times after he arrived at H.N.A.S. LEEUWIN.

He told me that he was being bothered by a number of boys in his class. I listened to him, and advised him what to do according to the circumstances.

Before he went home for his Christmas leave he told me that he would take lessons in boxing while he was at home, in order to defend himself.

Since Christmas I have not seen him apart from his presence in the Religious Instruction Classes.

I have found him to be a religious boy who is, perhaps, too intense about his "religious views".

(Father McKenna)
R.C. CHAPLAIN, RANR.

SECRET - CC

WELFARE I

Re: JR 1 CJA

- REDACTE - H.M.A.S. LEEUWIN

Please refer to signal 030125 May 1968 from Naval Officer-in-Charge, Queensland, regarding an interview with the father of this Junior Recruit.

REPORT:

The Social Worker interviewed Mr. REDACTE on May 3rd, 1968 as it was felt by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Queensland, Mr. REDACTE and the Social Worker that there may be welfare reasons which could have caused JR 1 CJA's desertion and may subsequently ~~consider~~ cause him to apply for a discharge. A signal was recently received stating that this boy deserted with another Junior Recruit on Monday, 29th April, 1968.

Mr. REDACTED, an artist and a writer and the father of JR CJA gave the impression of being an interesting, sensitive and artistic man with a great compassion for the "underdog". He spoke well and clearly and seemed to be determined to solve the problem, he believes, surrounds his son's desertion.

Briefly, Mr. REDACTE is an ex-navyman. He first married a widow with one young son, at the age of 16 years, and later divorced her on grounds of adultery. He married again and described himself as happy with his present wife. There seemed to be some confusion as to his religion. Mr. REDACTE claimed to be Roman Catholic and went to great pains to give his children a catholic education. However, he did not seem to have much regard for the clergy as far as it concerns dealing with human relations.

JR CJA appears to be Mr. REDACTE's second wife's son and Mr. REDACTE's fifth son. There are 7 children, 5 boys and 2 girls. The children range from 31 years to 5 years of age. All the boys have joined the Forces.

Mr. REDACTE recalled that JR CJA was fairly artistic but from his childhood was interested in joining the Navy and fascinated by dabbling in mechanics. According to his father JR CJA was too interested in his artistic hobbies to concentrate properly on his studies, consequently he did not obtain his Junior but chose to enter the Navy. He went to LEEUWIN about August 1967. Mr. REDACTE thought that his letters up to his first leave were reasonably happy ones. Only during his leave did he mention to his parents some of the mental strain he suffered at being bullied by other Junior Recruits.

He told his parents that they often had "gauntlet runs" and also other acts which provided Recruits to prove their bravery and endurance without telling on anyone. Thus they might deliberately set out to be caught by the officers and then endure the consequences. According to Mr. REDACTE it appeared that older or more aggressive Recruits would pressure younger ones and less aggressive ones into these situations. Apparently JR CJA was "No. 1 Scapegoat", although there seemed to be a few others in similar circumstances.

Mr. REDACTE described his son as the least person who would resist aggressively these pressures and would also never condescend to harming anyone. Thus he would feel especially upset at the antics of other boys.

H.M.A.S. LEEUWIN
P.O. Box 58,
Fremantle. W.A. 6160.

STATEMENT BY DIVISIONAL OFFICER

CJA , J.R.1, REDACTE of Morrow
Port Division, joined LEEUWIN in July 1967.

He has been a good Recruit, never in trouble, cheerful, and the type to help the "underdog".

Five weeks ago he requested for a Free Discharge which was a surprise. His reason was that he thought he would not like the Navy.

After pointing out the many advantages, including his wish to become an Electrician, for which he is selected, he withdrew his request.

He was convinced there was a good future, encouraged by his friends among the J.Rs.

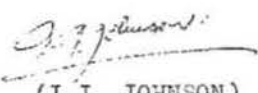
He has a few enemies who envy his way of life, and one or two have picked on him for trivial things. Nothing serious ever came to light, nor did he report incidents.

He has been able to phone his home without cost, and it appears that he has given his father some doubtful impressions, which has started anxious letters between father and son. CJA caused worry and confusion by improperly leaving, which gave his father the impression that he would be dismissed. CJA like many of his intake leaving for the Fleet, is anxious with what lies ahead, and he has been put off by his father's invitation to join a grocery business, a subject he knows nothing about, as he was an apprentice body builder prior to joining.

He has four older brothers, two younger and a sister, ranging from 30 to 5 years of age.

Once he settles in the next stage of his career, he should do well.

Free Discharge is not recommended unless reports concerning the health of his parents are serious.


(J.J. JOHNSON)
LCDR SD EX G