



**Ministry
of Defence**

**Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
MP 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY**

2014-04213

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11 August 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your communication of 8 August 2014 seeking information on the Court Martial of Lt cdr Alastair Mars in 1952. Your enquiry has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does not hold the information you are seeking. In accordance with the Public Records Act MOD is required to transfer records considered to be of historical interest to The National Archive for opening to the general public at the 30 year point except for records of particular sensitivity for national security or other reasons where MOD is permitted to hold the records for a longer period. Consequently, if documentation of that age has survived, it will be held at the National Archives at Kew.

Cursory searches made on your behalf by the Department have confirmed that the National Archives hold information that may be of assistance to you under the reference of ADM 156/317 which has an extended closure and will be opened to the public on 1st January 2015, however the Department hold the following summary record of the Court Martial:

Date of Court Martial:	24 June 1952
Name and Rank:	MARS, Alistair, Cambell, Gillespie Lt Cdr DSO, DSC and BAR, RN
Name of Ship:	HMS VICTORY
Substance of Charge preferred:	First and Second: Act to the prejudice of good order and naval discipline in wilfully disobeying the lawful command of the Lords of the Admiralty. Third and Fourth: Absence without leave.
Finding and Sentence:	Adjudged to be dismissed from Her Majesty's Service.

The National Archives can be contacted as follows:

Website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>
Post: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.

Their catalogue is available on the web so you may be able to search for the information you are looking for, although you will not be able to view any documents on the web. Alternatively, you may like to telephone them for assistance on: 020 8876 3444

If you decide to visit the National Archives you will either need to bring your Reader's Ticket, or if you do not possess one you will have to obtain one at the front desk. For this you will require some form of identification, a passport, driving licence etc. They do not charge for reader's tickets, they are free. Alternatively, you may consider employing a researcher to carry out the work for you. If you do decide to do this, then the National Archives will supply you with a list of independent researchers who will make a charge for their time. The National Archives do not carry out research on individual members of the public's behalf.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

A thick black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of the sender.