



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

T.J. CUTLER  
12 MOUNT ROAD  
NEWHAVEN  
EAST SUSSEX  
BN9 0LR

04 AUGUST 2006

Dear Mr Tubb,

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the crew of the Newhaven Lifeboat, on behalf of Her Majesty's Coastguard on a job well done. The incident being on the 01/08/06 at 19:25hrs B.S.T. Two swimmers reported in trouble west side of Newhaven Breakwater.

I was called to the scene with a colleague to find two swimmers in trouble and in danger of being swept on to the rocks. The first swimmer who was only some 50 feet off shore and caught in a very heavy surf with a deep swell and violent back wash, we tried in vain to throw him lines from our rescue equipment but was beaten back by the heavy surf on shore.

Whilst keeping observation on the second casualty who was approx 200 feet off shore and caught in the rip I was thinking of ways of rescue, the first informant who was standing beside me and the mother of one of the casualties wanted to know what we was going to do. At this moment the Lifeboat arrived on scene to my relief, and the crowd that had now gathered on the shore, everyone was overwhelmed by the speed the Lifeboat arrived at the first casualty. I conned the Lifeboat with the aid of N.C.I. lookout to the last sighted position where to my amazement witnessed two crew members enter the sea and perform a daring and speedy rescue. Once this first casualty was safely on board and the crew recovered I informed the mother who was speechless.

Whilst this was happening the second casualty had been swept to some 20ft from the breakwater, I informed the opps room (M.R.C.C.) with a sit rep, the reply being what was our intentions, for the first time in my 17 yrs service I had no idea and replied, "not sure, stand by" The Lifeboat called me and said we're coming in! Being a local seafarer I was horrified at the thought knowing all too well the depth of water and rocks below. The coxswain brought the boat straight in to the casualty holding her position in a westerly force 6, 20ft offshore the crew threw lines to the casualty and pulled him alongside the boat where yet another dramatic rescue was performed.

With both casualties safely on board, the Lifeboat headed back to sea to return. I requested an ambulance to meet on arrival and the family to the boathouse. Summing up, to be stood on the shore feeling helpless watching two people in trouble is the worst feeling to have, to see two dramatic rescues and hearing the crowd cheer is the best.

These two people were very lucky to be rescued by a skilled crew, which you have there was with out no doubt two lives saved here.

Sincerely  
T. Cutler (Station Officer)

