

Gerrard 9234



TELEPHONE:

~~HOLBORN 3424~~

Extn. ....

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE SECRETARY,

and the following number quoted:—

AIR MINISTRY,

LONDON, W.C.2.

14 April 1943.

P4/FE 631045. L.A.C. J. B. Preece.

Sir.

I am directed to inform you, that the position of personnel whose whereabouts have been unknown since the evacuation of the Malaya, Java and Sumatra area has been under review.

While there was reason to believe that the Allied Forces in certain parts of the Netherlands East Indies were still fighting, personnel who might possibly have joined these forces were not officially regarded as missing. In view, however, of the absence of any recent news of them, it can no longer be assumed that they are still operating.

It is regretted therefore that your *Son.* must be regarded as missing with effect from 1st February, 1943.

It is desired to emphasize that this action has not been taken on account of any fresh news of him having been received. Although a number of names of officers and airmen who are prisoners of war have been received from the Japanese, it is believed that there are as yet many more to come. He may therefore eventually prove to be a prisoner of war, or possibly, still free and at large on one of the islands. Any information relating to him that is received will be passed to you at once.

/I

Mr. W. J. Preece.





I am to add, in explanation, that the date chosen for posting purposes, 1st February, 1943, has had to be selected arbitrarily, and it does not necessarily imply that no further information will be received about events which occurred before that date.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

*B. K. Giffin*

for Director of Personal Services.