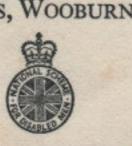
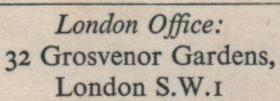
TELEPHONE:
BOURNE END 594
TELEGRAMS:

COMGRAVES, WOOBURN GREEN





COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION,
Wooburn House,

Wooburn Green,

High Wycombe, Bucks.

7th April, 1961.

Ref.:

Dear Mr. Preece,

I am writing to you about the grave of your son the late Leading Aircraftman John Colin Preece, Royal Air Force, in Palembang Dutch War Cemetery, in Sumatra, Indonesia.

Many of the Commonwealth war graves in that country are situated in Commonwealth plots in the same cemeteries as plots of Dutch war graves.

About three years ago the Government of Indonesia made it clear that they required the Netherlands authorities to reduce the number of sites in Indonesia containing Netherlands war graves by approximately one half of their existing number. This requirement by itself would unfortunately have necessitated the movement of a certain number of Commonwealth war graves. Subsequently, however, in the course of the negotiations which have taken place as a preliminary to the signature of a Commonwealth-Indonesian Agreement on war graves, the Government of Indonesia have informed the Commonwealth representatives in that country that they can only make available two sites for the re-burial of the Commonwealth war dead.

The reluctance of the Commission and the Commonwealth governments to agree to the disturbance of established war graves, except in circumstances of real and public interest, has been impressed upon the Indonesian Government. I regret, however, that the Commission have now been advised that it will only be possible to obtain complete security for the Commonwealth war graves if these are regrouped into two sites, in accordance with the views of the Indonesian Government.

It has accordingly been agreed with the Government of Indonesia that the Commonwealth war graves in Java and Sumatra and in the adjacent islands will be transferred to a new site made available by that Government at Djakarta, the capital of the Republic. By the terms of the Commonwealth-Indonesian War Graves Agreement, which is to be concluded shortly, perpetual security of tenure in respect of the land on which the cemetery at Djakarta will be situated is guaranteed to the Commission.

Arrangements for the construction and horticultural development of the new war cemetery at Djakarta will be the responsibility of the Commission's Anzac Agency. Once completed the cemetery will be maintained to the same standard as other war cemeteries in the Commission's care throughout the world.

Yours sincerely,

Director-General

W.F. Preece Esq., Post Office, Harley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.