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Title: POTT John Henry - (Sergeant); Service Number - 400122; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Bombay L5847; Place - Middle East; Date - 16 November 1941

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163/152/141

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

File Number.
163/152/141
Date of Opening.
21-11-41
Other Files or Papers bearing on the same Subject.
C/A. 163/152/184
Previous markings inside back cover.

UNIT:
BRANCH OR SECTION D.P.S.P.4.
ORIGINATING FILE:

SUBJECT
H.20122 Sgt. Pott. J. A.
Casualty Repatriation.

81 1700

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Referred to for action or information.	Minute or enclosure for attention.	Date on which file is passed out of Branch.	Initials. (See Instruction No. 12.)	Referred to for action or information.	Minute or enclosure for attention.	Date on which file is passed out of Branch.	Initials. (See Instruction No. 12.)	Referred to for action or information.	Minute or enclosure for attention.	Date on which file is passed out of Branch.	Initials. (See Instruction No. 12.)
<u>P.A.</u>		<u>6/1/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>Mr. Joyce</u>		<u>5/2/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>Mr. Bowley</u>	<u>min 60</u>	<u>2/1/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>Mr. [unclear]</u>	<u>min 61</u>	<u>2/6/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>Joint Draft</u>		<u>13/3/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>Mr. [unclear]</u>			<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>P.A.</u>		<u>18/3/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>P.A.(B)</u>	<u>63A/C</u>	<u>27/9/47</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>Mr. [unclear]</u>	<u>63A/C</u>	<u>2/1/48</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>P.A.</u>		<u>27/9/48</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>[unclear]</u>		<u>26/10/48</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>D.P.S.P.5</u>	<u>64A</u>	<u>4/11/53</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>CAA Amp</u>	<u>65A</u>	<u>9/1/55</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>DESPATCH</u>	<u>68A</u>	<u>12/11</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>D.P.S.P.5</u>	<u>file</u>	<u>13/11/53</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>CAA</u>	<u>62A</u>	<u>12/11</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								
<u>P/A</u>	<u>file</u>	<u>13/11/53</u>	<u>[initials]</u>								

1/11/53/59/

INSTRUCTIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN THE COMPILATION AND
USE OF FILES.

1. When opening a new file, care must be taken to see that a file dealing with the subject is not already in existence, and covers should be completed with details for which space is provided.
2. Papers are to be attached to the file cover by means of paper fasteners of appropriate size, and washers, when available, are also to be used. Insert paper fasteners through the front and back covers of the file at the point indicated thereon. A half-inch fastener is to be used for minute sheets and a fastener of not more than one-and-a-half inches to attach enclosures. When there are as many enclosures on a file as can conveniently be fastened by a one-and-a-half inch paper fastener, a new part should be opened.
3. Minute Sheets to be attached to the left-hand inside cover and enclosures to the right-hand side.
4. Minute Sheets are to be used for correspondence between branches or sections of a headquarters or unit. All other inwards or outwards correspondence is to appear as an enclosure. Enclosures are to be numbered consecutively, without regard to the number of any minute which refers to them. Where an enclosure consists of only one document, its number will be followed by the letter "A". Where 2 or more different letters or papers form one enclosure, they will all bear the same number, followed consecutively by the letters "A", "B", "C", etc.
5. Minute number one is to be on the printed side of the Minute Sheet and is to face the cover on the minute side of the file.
6. Correspondence on subjects on which a file already exists must not be made on loose Minute Sheets—the file must be obtained and action taken thereon.
7. Minutes must be added in numerical order and both sides of the Minute Sheets are to be used.
8. Files must not be passed between Branches by hand without transit slips.
9. Notes of action taken may be entered on the Minute Sheets, otherwise unaddressed minutes will not be made.
10. Minutes may be noted by Officers placing their initials over the reference to them at the minute head, and such words as "agree" and "concur" may be used to obviate separate minutes by individual addressees. An Officer's initials so placed will indicate concurrence with the minute.
11. In column 1 on the cover is to be indicated the persons for whom minutes or enclosures are intended, the number of that minute or enclosure and the date it is passed out from the last person noting (or otherwise using) the file being indicated in columns 2 and 3 respectively.
12. When the person indicated in column 1 has taken the necessary action on the file, he (or his representative) will draw a line through the reference to him in columns 1, 2 and 3 on the cover and will place his initials in column 4, indicating that the necessary action has been taken. He will then indicate on the next line to whom the file is to pass—completing columns 2 and 3.

(4)

THIS PAGE IS THE REVERSE OF THE PREVIOUS PAGE
AND MAY NOT BE RELEVANT TO THE FILE

163/152/141

163/152/141

20/11/42 Application for Death Certificate from H. G. Pott
Encl. 50A

57.

/11/42 To Lieut. ~~MM~~ F.G. Pott, re delay in issue of D/C.
(letter not sent) Encl. 51A

5/12/42 D/C's issued to Lieut. Pott. Encl. 58a.

5/12/42 To Lieut. Pott forwarding 2 D/C's. Encl. 59a.

60.

Mr. Bowley PUN Section
(Sister)

Mrs Lyons called for any further info. re burial. Told her generally the contents of Enc. 60a & 61a. She advised that her mother was dead & she wished to be informed of anything further at address:-
- Mrs. Lyons b. of 57 Reed Street Albert Park.
I overlooked at the time ^{pointing out to} her ~~if~~ that the other brother was legally N/K, but as she is the executrix of her late brother's will, & there is no objection to recording her as the person to be informed should anything further be received. Please add your comments.

Louise
PUN.

25/2/47

61.

Order to N/K. Mr. F. G. Pott (Brother)
3 Austin St
Bentleigh. Vic.

Also inform Mrs. Lyons (Sister)
57 Reed St
Albert Park. Vic

Bowley

62

26 FEB 1947

MINUTE SHEET

Reference

⁴³
1/8/42 Signal to O.H.G. K'way advising unofficial advice received this airmen, requesting interogate sender.

Encl. 43a

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT RECEIVED

⁴⁴
27/8/42 Signal from O.H.G. K'way in reply to Enc 43a advising no further information from I.R.C. & that no reply to hand from A/S Nelson - apparently at sea.

Enc 45A

⁴⁵
27/8/42 Information contained in Enc 45 A conveyed to Lieut. Pott by phone. He requested that no letter be sent until reply received from J.D. Wilson.

J.P.S. Cas. Sec.

⁴⁶
29/8/42. Signal from O.H.G. RAAF K'way in further reply Encl. 43a, advising letter from L/S. Wilson received giving details of source of information of member being P.O.W. and advising incorrect information being investigated. Encl. 47a

⁴⁷
Ft/O. Pitts. Mother called and was fully informed of the present position as indicated in Enclosures 45a and 47a. She would like to have all this information in writing. She was much moved but glad to have had the news at first hand. She persists still, though less decidedly, in the belief that she may yet get better news and for that reason does not yet wish to sign documents already sent to her. She will, however, arrange to answer our letter shortly, and is, I think, almost persuaded that there is no hope. I rang Lieut. Pott at his home later and he was glad she had called and will persuade her that she should now proceed to finalise matters. She requested the address of N/Kin of L.A.C. Gowing (Encl. 45a) and this was given to her though it was pointed out, and she agreed, that the N/Kin would have less reliable information that we had procured officially through I.R.C.

2. I gave Mrs. Pott the address of O.i/c R. so that she could apply in writing for a Mother's badge.
3. It is suggested that in conveying the information requested above, we make the point, as kindly as possible, that we assume that she will recognise there is no longer any hope, and request that she reply to the two letters on the Committee of Adjustment file, also stating how many Death Certificates are required, and informing her that the presumption of death will be published in an official list in the press in due course.

Officer #6
3/9/42

N.O. Neesham
S/Ldr.
D.P.S. (C.S.)

⁴⁸
/9/42 To N/K conveying contents of Encs. 45A and 47A and suggesting that steps now be taken to finalize service affairs. (Enc. 49A)

R.A.A.F. Form A 60
(May, 1936)

21 OCT 1942

RECORDED FOR STATISTICAL TABULATION
On P/P. 113 Serial No. Initials *gja*

[OVER

2/3/42 Letter to next-of-kin giving further particulars
re her son, and also expressing sympathy. Encl. 23A.

24.

10/4/42 Sergeant ~~Major~~ Pott called. Showed him
18A and 21A. He agreed that we had done
everything possible. I advised that it was
possible that an official ~~to~~ German list
with details of death and burial might be
received through I.R.C. and that should this
be received contents would be communicated.
Sergeant Pott said he still hoped that
the Berlin broadcast of the 4th Feb which
was directed to South Pacific mentioned
"John Pott of Melbourne" referred to his mother
and was not received in London. John W. Wall

5.1.42. Letter from Air Ministry enclosing
two copies of letter sent to
next-of-kin confirming casualty.
Encls 25A, B, C

22.12.41. Copies of telegrams sent to RAAF
Liaison Office London & to Air Board
M.B. advising this airman missing
believed killed.
Encls 26A, B.

27.

29.4.42. Signal from Air Ministry advising death presumption
proceeding.

Encl. 27a.

28.

9.5.42 Staff Sergeant Potts rang advising that he had heard by
telephone from Red X regarding his brother's death.
I telephoned to him later and advised that he should
break news to his mother. Cino had still been hoping
that Sgt. I.H. Pott was prisoner of war following German radio to
(real effect) to say that would follow from the Department.
R.K.P.

10/5/42 Staff Sergeant Potts rang requested that letter to next of
kin be delayed for a week, as he does not wish his mother
to receive it in absence of his father. Father will be home
in late next week
John W. Wall

7/5/42. Copy of POW List No. FC.62 From POW Information
Bureau quoting this airman killed.

ENCLOSURE 30A

10/5/42 Copy of signal from Kingway advising officially
presumed this airman dead
Enc 31a

11/5/42 Copy of signal from HQ RAAF Middle East
officially presuming death of Pott
Encl 32

18.5.42. To Mrs. F.G. Pott advising that Air Ministry has now presumed death and expressing sympathy
W.E.P. 17/11/41

Enc. 33A.

*Noted
A 9/7*

34.

REPORTED ON DAILY CASUALTY REPORT No. 25

23/5/42

35

NOTIFICATION TO F.M. SERIAL No. 932

23/5/42

36

27.1.42. Letter from R.A.F.H.Q. Middle East enclosing copy of letter to N/K giving details re this airman.
Encl 36a, 36b.

5/6/42 Signal from Airmin. Kingsway advising intention to publish death presumption on 9/6/42.
End 37a.

38.

17/6/42 Signal from Air Ministry Kingsway requesting full Christian names for presumption of death this airman.
Enc 38a.

39.

18/6/42. Signal to Airmin. London advising full Christian names this airman.
Enc 39a.

40

18/7/42 Letter from Air Ministry, London, in confirmation of signal sent, advising this airman's death is presumed to have occurred.
Enc 40a.

41

31/7/42 Mr. Pott, brother of this airman says to say he had received a cable from a friend named Wilson who is in the Navy, stationed at Port William, Scotland, in which Wilson states "Have located John. Writing."
Mr. Pott will ring back & give full particulars concerning Wilson. In the meantime he does not wish to proceed to funeral estate
W.P. 1/8

42

Lieut. Pott (Brother) called with letter quoting cable referred to (Min.41) and was informed we would ask O.H.Q. to interrogate the sender of the message, the words of which were "Have located Pottie and written".
2. When reply received, information to be telephoned in first instance to Lieut. F.G. Pott, private address; 5 Austin St., Bentley - Ph. XU1338 and Army address for next two weeks "Base Ordnance Depot, 31 Flinders Lane, Ph. Central 2702 - Switch 18.

W.P.
.....Sq/Leader
D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION

MINUTE SHEET

163/152/141
Reference

- 20.11.41. Signal ^{1.} from H.Q. - M.E. advising that
4002122 Sgt. Post. J. E. a casualty. Encl. 1 a.
- 21.11.41. Particulars of P.R.25 from O/c. Records. Encl. 2 a.
- 22.11.41. Signal from H.Q. - M.E. giving this airman's
correct number. Encl. 3 a.
- 24.11.41. Telegram ^{4.} to M of Kin advising. Encl. 4 a.
- 24.11.41. Notification of casualty to F.M. - O/c.R. - Sec. etc. Encl. 5 a - 5 b.
- 25.11.41. To Chief Finance Officer forwarding form 219 for
completion and return. Encl. 6 a
- ^{7.}
Mr. Rayson (C.F.O.) advised per phone - allotment
of per day to mother —
NO RECORD OF DEPENDANTS' ALLOWANCE
- 3.12.41. Letter to next of kin confirming enclosure 4A and
giving further details. (Encl. 8A)
- ^{9.}
Form 219 and copy. Form 219 may be
removed should pension action become
necessary. Encl. 9 a & b
- 22.12.41. Signal from Records Gho. advising change in category. Encl. 10 A.
- 23.12.41. Signal to ^{11.} M of Kin advising. Encl. 11 A.
- 24.12.41. Notification of change in category to O/c.R. - F.M. - etc. Encl. 12 A, B, C.
- 25.12.41. Signal from H.Q. RAF ME. advising this
airman now reclassified as missing believed killed. Encl. 13 A.
- ^{14.}
2/1/42
22.41. To next of kin advising contents of enclosure 13A.

15.
16-11-41 From C.O. No 16 Squadron Middle East. Circumstantial
Report casualty Sgt Pott. Encl 15a

16/1.42. To Mrs. F.G. Pott advising contents of enclosure
15A. (Encl. 16A.)

17. 17.2.42. Signal to Australia advising that next of kin have
17. received unofficial advice that Berlin radio reported
this airman to be a prisoner of war. Encl. 17A.

18. 20.2.42. Signal from H.A. R.A.F. Kingsway
18. advising further on this casualty Encl. 18A

19. 21-2-42 Phone and spoke to Mrs Pott (wife of Cdr. F.G. Pott).
19. and gave her the information in enclosure 18A.
She advised that the information her husband had
received came in the first place from a member
of the staff of Lepton Ltd who heard a Berlin radio
report direct that Sergeant Pott of Melbourne was a
prisoner. Cdr Pott also received information ~~from~~
from the Ministry of Information that Berlin had
made a broadcast. Cdr Pott had given this
information to Lieutenant Charge at P.O.W. Bureau
who confirmed that he had had the same
report from the Ministry of Information. John W Watt
P/O

20. 23.2.42. Telephoned Lieutenant CHARGE. He advised that
20. Sergeant POTT's name had been furnished to him as
a prisoner of war in list from Ministry of Informa-
tion, and as Mr. Pott had also reported that
"Sergeant Pott of Melbourne" had been mentioned
in a Berlin radio list heard in Melbourne,
Lieutenant CHARGE had cabled direct to Geneva.
He will advise when he receives a reply.

John W Watt
Pilot Officer.

21. 18.3.42 Signal from R.A.F. Hqs. M.E. stating
21. that a letter received from a prisoner
of war states that Sgt Potts lost his
life when his aircraft was shot down (Encl. 21A)

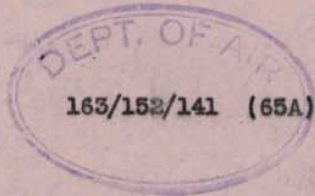
22. 20.3.42 Signal from RAAF Kingsway advising
22. this airman missing believed killed
Encl 22a

M.B. 11/11/53

67a

44228

NOV 13 1953



Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 30th October, 1953, concerning the late Sergeant John Henry Pott.

I will write to Mr. F.G. Pott and convey to him any additional details received in regard to his brother's death.

Yours faithfully,



(E.W. Hicks),
SECRETARY.

Mr. A.F. Wallace,
C/- J. Kitchen & Sons Pty. Ltd.,
469 Kent Street,
SYDNEY. New South Wales.

*Hicks
6/11/53
Amen*

A.K. 9/11/53.

44229

NOV 13 1953

66A

DEPT. OF AIR
163/152/141. (66A)

Dear Sir,

A member of the R.A.A.F. Reserve, Flying Officer A.F. Wallace, with whom you are acquainted, has asked that you be informed of any additional details surrounding the death of your brother, Sergeant John Henry Pott.


When your brother's aircraft was forced down by enemy action and crashed in a shallow dive in the El Gazala area, Middle East, three R.A.F. members of the crew and twelve army personnel survived the crash and were immediately taken prisoners by the Germans. Upon their release, statements were obtained from the three R.A.F. survivors and these confirmed the earlier reports received through the International Red Cross that your brother and two other R.A.F. members were killed in the crash or died shortly afterwards.


At the end of the War Air Ministry established an organisation known as the Missing Research & Enquiry Service upon which devolved the responsibility for the search for unknown graves of all members of the Dominion Air Forces. The unit operating in the Middle East succeeded in locating the burial place of the two R.A.F. members and their remains are now interred in a properly constructed War Cemetery under the control of the Imperial War Graves Commission. It also gained confirmation of your brother's fate from recovered German documents but, unfortunately, no record of his Grave could be found.

In conjunction with the Imperial War Graves Commission a prolonged and difficult search was conducted of all Cemeteries within the area but at the conclusion of these activities the grave remained unlocated.

It is the intention of the Imperial War Graves Commission to erect a special memorial at El Alamein in memory of all allied airmen who lost their lives in the Middle East and who have no known grave. Arrangements have been made with the Commission to have your brother's name commemorated on that memorial.

Yours faithfully,


(E. W. Hicks)
Secretary.


Mr. F.G. Pott,
32 Homer Street,
UNDERCLIFFE. N.S.W..

A.K. 9/11/53.

65A

163/152/141 (65A).

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 30th
October, 1953, concerning the late Sergeant John
Henry Pott.

~~As soon as possible,~~ I will write to
Mr. F.G. Pott and convey to him any additional details
received in regard to his brother's death.

Yours faithfully,

(E. W. Hicks)
Secretary.

Mr. A.F. Wallace,
C/- J. Kitch & Sons Pty. Ltd.,
469 Kent Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W..

W.A.

163/152/141

163/152/441

C/- J. Kitchen & Sons Pty. Ltd.,
469 Kent Street,
SYDNEY.

30th October, 1953.

Personnel Section,
R.A.A.F. Headquarters,
Victoria Barracks,
St. Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE...VIC.



7/0 H/P
Esene
7/228 Albert Francis Wallace ✓

Dear Sirs,

As a member of the General Reserve of Air Force Officers, I am sometimes asked various questions on the R.A.A.F.

The General Sales Manager of J. Kitchen & Sons Pty. Limited, Mr. F. G. Pott, has asked me to obtain details of his brother's death and, if possible, the location of his grave. His name was Sergeant John Henry Pott, Service No. 400122 and he was reported missing in the Middle East while serving with 416 Squadron. Mr. F. G. Pott has reason to believe that other members of the air crew and Army personnel on board were captured and spent the rest of the War years as prisoners.

I would be very pleased if you could institute enquiries and pass any information you may obtain on to Mr. F. G. Pott, 32 Homer Street, Undercliffe, Sydney.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

A. F. WALLACE.

PS
4/11/52

AIR MAIL



Telephone:

WHITEHALL 2101

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEFENSE
163/152/141
R.A.F.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS,

CANBERRA HOUSE,

85-87, JERMYN STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

REFERENCE 1401/655/Pl.

04104

9 Sep 48.

The Secretary,
Air Board,
Victoria Barracks,
St.Kilda Road,
Melbourne,
Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

RECEIVED
17 SEP 48
AIR REGISTRY

Aus.400122 Sergeant POTT J.H.(Deceased)

Further to this Overseas Headquarters letter of even reference dated 4 Jan 46, forwarded herewith is copy of a report from No. 5 Missing Research and Enquiry Unit dated 28 Nov 47.

2. Imperial War Graves Commission advise that it has not been possible to trace any unknown grave which might be connected with Sergeant POTT and add that, according to the records handed over by War Office, his grave was not registered and was unlocated after search.

3. The attached Post Presumption Memorandum No.2477/48 dated 13 May 48 gives burial details for the other two casualties in the crew.

*Pl(B)
20.9.48*

D. A. Wright
(D.A. WRIGHT)
Squadron Leader,
for Air Commodore,
Air Officer Commanding.

Encl.

See also Encl. 61A

National Archives of Australia

NAA/A705, 163/152/48
*No action in view of encls
163/152/48, and fact that
6.1. have advised
terms of encl*

63B

S.14 (Cas.) C.5.

POST PRESUMPTION MEMORANDUM NO. 2477/48

FILE NUMBER P.363914/41

DATE 13.5.48

Relating to BOMBAY L.5847

Missing on 16.11.41

Crashed near EL GAZALA, MIDDLE EAST

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	BURIAL DETAILS	INFORMATION
111325	Plt. Off.	MARTIN D.S.	ACROMA (KNIGHTSBRIDGE) CEM., M.E. Plot Row Grave 8 H 3	MIDDLE EAST M.R.E.U. report that 3 of this crew were taken prisoner when the aircraft crashed. Plt. Off. MARTIN was buried in EL GAZALA and is now concentrated as indicated. A.C.1 HUMPHRIES was buried in DERVA CEMETERY and is now concentrated as shown. Sgt. POTT was killed but the whereabouts of his grave are not known and were not located after search. Case Closed.
649662	A.C.1	HUMPHRIES W.P.	8 E 27	
A.400122	Sgt.	POTT J.H.	No known grave	
565667	W.O.	WEST C.E.	} Safe	
751885	W.O.	HEARD R.P.		
546430	W.O.	GOWING R.W.		

Circulation:-

F. File
B.1 (Alpha)

B.1 (Chron. Cards)
B.1 (MEM)

S.14 Cas. (C.5)
S.14 Cas. (C.6)

MED/M.E.

R.A.A.F. O.H.Q. (2)

G.197690(f)/JMB/5/48.

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A705_16311521441

COPY

111325/Martin

63C
No.5 Missing Research & Enquiry
Unit,

A.P.O. S.565,
Royal Air Force,
Central Med. Forces.

Air Ministry (S.14 Cas.),
2, Seville Street,
London, S.W.1.

28 November, 1947.

Copies to:

Imperial War Graves Commission,
High Wycombe, Bucks.

R.A.A.F. O'Seas H.Q.
London, W.C.2.

649662 AC1. HUMPHRIES W. - R.A.F.
565667 F/S WEST C.E. R.A.F.)
751885 SGT. HEARD R.P. R.A.F.) safe
546430 LAC. GOWING R.W. R.A.F.)
A.40012 SGT. POTT J.H. R.A.A.F.
111325 P/O. MARTIN D.S. R.A.F.

(1 Officer and 11 O.R.s - Army)

Bombay L.5847 - 216 Sqdn. - 17.11.41.

The above aircraft and crew took off from base at Fuka Satellite on the night of 16/17.11.41, to drop parachute troops in the Tmimi - El Cazala area. The aircraft was shot down and crashed in a shallow dive about 10 miles east of El Cazala, approximately 500 yards from the coast.

2. The aircraft did not catch fire and most of the occupants were able to get clear of the wreckage. The Germans surrounded the crashed aircraft and took these in two groups to Field Dressing Stations. One group containing LAC.Gowing, AC1. Humphries, and three or four parachutists were taken to a dressing station, and later put in a hospital tent, where Humphries lay unconscious until finally he died. The remainder of the crew, including Sgt. Heard and F/Sgt. West were taken to another dressing station.

3. In Questionnaires received from Sgt. Heard, F/S. West and LAC.Gowing, who are now all SAFE in the U.K., it is stated that Sgt. Pott appeared to be dead by the side of the wreckage, another statement says that Sgt. Pott died in a Field Hospital at El Gazala, and was buried with P/O Martin on 17.11.41 at El G azala.

4. All of this crew and passengers are now SAFE, with the exception of AC1. HUMPHRIES, P/O MARTIN and SGT.POTT. AC1. HUMPHRIES was buried in Derna (Lighthouse) Cem. and is now concentrated to B enghasi M.C. 8 - E - 27. P/O Martin was buried at M.R.36554459 Sh. 18 N.W. 1/50,000 (supposedly the site of the crash) and is now concentrated to Acroma (Knightsbridge) Cemetery, 8 - H - 3.

5. In view of the fact that Sgt. Pott is stated to have been buried with P/O Martin at El G azala, it is highly probable that he may be also buried in Acroma (Knightsbridge) Cem. If however Pott was taken to a Field Hospital, he may have been buried in Benghasi M.C. together with AC1. Humphries.

6. It would be appreciated if the Imperial War Graves Commission would check their records for burial details in respect of Sgt. Pott, or for any unknowns which may link with him.

7. Failing a link up by the I.W.G.C., the Air Ministry's comments would be appreciated.

(Sgd.) P. TENNISON
Wing Commander, Commanding.
No.5 M.R.E.U. R.A.F.C.M.F.

Encl 62 F

163/152/141

400122 SGT. POTT, J.H. (DECEASED)

O.I/c.Records

According to advice received from sister of member, next of kin, Mother, is now deceased.

2. Therefore, this Section is recording member's brother, Mr. F.G. POTT, as next of kin for the purpose of receipt of any further casualty notifications as follows:-

MR. F.G. POTT (BROTHER)
3 AUSTIN STREET
~~.....~~
VIC.

Bensleigh, Vic

[Signature]

18.3.47

.....
D.P.S. (P4)N

Encl 61A

DEPARTMENT OF AIR.
MINUTE PAPER.

(This side only to be written on.)

SUBJECT: 400122. Sgt POTT, J. H.

The name of the abovementioned member has been included on a list compiled by the Directorate of War Graves Services, of members who cannot be located or who are considered lost in the minefields, by the graves registration units which have now completed operations in the Middle East area. Further search by graves registration units has been abandoned.

No further action.

A. S. D.

30/9/46 for P. un. 4/2/47

J. H. B. ...

FOR D.P.S. (P6.N)

RECORDED IN REGISTER
BY *[Signature]*
30/9/46

(C170/46)

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A705, 163/152/141

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Teleph. 9211

Telegraphic Address: "AUSTRAIR, WESTCENT, LONDON."

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO "THE AIR OFFICER COMMANDING."

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE NO. 1401/655/P4.(48A). 5.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE,
OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS,
KODAK HOUSE,
63, KINGSWAY,
LONDON, W.C.2.

JANUARY
4th December 1946.

The Secretary,
Departement of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE.

PCN

Aus400122 Sgt. POTT J.H.

The above R.A.A.F. member was reported missing in the Western Desert on 16/17 November 1941.

He was reported on Totenliste No 66 as having lost his life, this was confirmed on a recovered German Death Card but burial details have never been received. The German Death Card stated that Pott died on 17th November 1941 in Africa at GAZALA.

War Office (D.G.R.&E.) were requested to investigate this case and we are now advised that despite a thorough search of the GAZALA area they have been unable to locate the burial place of the above member, This case will be included in those for M.R. investigation.

E. J. Coxon
(E.J. COXON) F/LT.,
for Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer Commanding.

30 JAN 1946
163/152/141

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A705, 163/152/141

M.W.
15.12.42.

Enc. 59a.

163/152/141

2
MXY 440 (457)

Casualty Section,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX LA.5271.

Merton Hall,
XXXX Anderson St.,
South Yarra,
S.E.1.
JUN 15 1943

RAAF.163/152/141(59a). 30790

Dear Sir,

Re NO.400122 SERGEANT J. H. POTT, DECEASED.

With reference to your application dated the 20th November, 1942, I forward herewith two Death Certificates of the above-mentioned member of the Royal Australian Air Force.

Yours faithfully,

Enc.

Lieut. F. G. Pott,
5 Austin Street,
HELVETIAH. VIC.

(H. Madgwick)
SECRETARY.

am p/s/d
DPS CASUALTY SECTION
H/1/43

18/2.

M.W.

Enc. 58a.

15.12.42.

NO.

1191

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX LA.5271.
Ext.131.

XXXX S.C.I.

NATIONAL SECURITY (WAR DEATHS) REGULATIONS.
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH ON WAR SERVICE.

I, HENRY ARTHUR WINNEKE, being the person for the time being holding the office of Director of Personal Services, Royal Australian Air Force, a person duly authorised by the Minister of State for Air to issue certificates of death on war service for the purposes of the National Security (War Deaths) Regulations, HEREBY CERTIFY that NO.400123 SERGEANT JOHN HENRY POTT, while engaged on war service within the meaning of those Regulations, became missing on the seventeenth day of November one thousand nine hundred and fortyone and is for official purposes presumed to be dead.

DATED the *thirtyfirst* day of *December* 1942.

N. A. W.

Group Captain,
Director of Personal Services,
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Air Force Head-quarters,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE. S.C.I.

File 163/152/141(58a).

Folio Number 94/1179.

Issued to - Lieut. F. G. Pott,
3 Austin Street,
BENTLEIGH. Vic.

MML

26.11.42

Encl. 51A

xxxxxxx LA.5271 Ext. 131

Casualty Section,

RAAF 163/152/141(51A)

Merton Hall,
xxxx Anderson Street,
South Yarra.
S.E.1.

Dear Sir,

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your application dated 20th November, 1942, requesting two Certificates of death of the late Sergeant John Henry Pott.

I have to inform you that the previous National Security Regulation under which these Certificates were issued was repealed and superseded on the 29th October, 1942, by a new Regulation. This has caused some delay in the usual procedure adopted by this Department in the issuing of such Certificates.

Your application will receive attention in due course.

Yours faithfully,

M.C. Langslow
gm 19/5/10
(M.C. Langslow)
SECRETARY

Lieutenant F.G. Pott,
5 Austin Street,
BENTLEIGH, VIC.

DRAFT

APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE OF DEATH ON
WAR SERVICE.

File *163/152/141*

Application is made for the issue of a Death Certificate of:

No. *400122*
Rank *Sgt*
Full Name *John Henry Pott*
Number of Certificates required *2*

Certificate/s required for the purpose of
Insurance purposes

Name and Address of person or persons to whom Certificate/s to be issued
Lieut H. Pott (F.G. POTT)
5 Austin St.
Bentleigh (Phone Day M4511 Night XU1338)

Signature of applicant. *H. Pott*
Address *5 Austin St*
Bentleigh.

Date *20/11/42.*

Note: The above application is to be forwarded in an envelope addressed to The Secretary, Department of Air, Victoria Barracks, MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

NML

Enc. 49A

XXXX LA 5271

103505

SEP 19 1942

RAAF 163/152/141(49A)

Dear Madam,

I refer to previous communications concerning your son, Sergeant John Henry Pott, whose death has been presumed by the Air Ministry, London, to have occurred on the 17th November, 1941.

I deeply regret that I have to confirm the information already conveyed to you that investigations made through Overseas Headquarters, London, with regard to a cable received by you from Leading Seaman, J.D. Wilson, have disclosed no more hopeful news concerning your son. A letter received at Overseas Headquarters from Leading Seaman Wilson states that upon receiving information that your son's name had been mentioned in a broadcast, he went to the Prisoners' of War Enquiry Department, Warwick House, to try to obtain further news of him. The Clerk whom he interviewed, after making two telephone calls, informed him that it could be assumed as absolutely correct from the broadcast that your son was a prisoner of war, and that his address would be Dulag Luft, Germany. Leading Seaman Wilson thereupon despatched his cable informing you that he had located your son.

It is greatly regretted that the information contained in the cable should have added to your distress by raising unfounded hope that your son might be found alive. The question as to how incorrect information came to be supplied to Leading Seaman Wilson is being taken up with the British Red Cross Society.

According to information received from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, a report received from Leading Aircraftman Gowing who was a member of your son's crew and is now a prisoner of war in Germany, states that the German Medical Authorities notified this member that your son was taken prisoner, but died shortly after being admitted to hospital.

In view of this information it is now proposed to release the report that your son's death has been presumed for official purposes for publication in an official casualty list which will appear in the press in due course. It is suggested that steps should also be taken to finalize your son's Service affairs, and accordingly, I shall be glad if you will let me have a reply to my letter dated the 16th July, 1942. If it will be necessary for you to produce certificates of his death in connection with his private assets, I shall be glad if you will advise this Department as to the number required.

Permit me again to express the profound sympathy of this Department in the loss of your gallant son in the service of his country.

Yours faithfully,

M.C. Langslow
(M.C. Langslow)
SECRETARY

Mrs. F.G. Pott,
198 Graham Street,
PORT MELBOURNE. VIC.

for D.P.S. C.A.
1/9

THIS PAGE IS REPRODUCED FROM A BADLY FADED OR ILLEGIBLE SOURCE.
SCANNING THIS ITEM AT A HIGHER RESOLUTION WILL NOT IMPROVE ITS LEGIBILITY.

inc. 47a

St 8774

R.A.A.F. Form A.14
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(Revised October, 1941.)

P/O Brown

CYPHER MESSAGE

9329

Serial No.

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

TO AIRFORCE MELBOURNE	Receipt	Despatch
	Time of	
FROM OHQ RAAF KINGSWAY	System	

AL 732 29/8

CAS 206 YOUR L461 1/8

163/152/141

94/1179

AUS 400122 SGT POTTS J H PRESUMED DEAD (.) FURTHER TO OUR AL 499

22/8 CAS 175 LETTER NOW RECEIVED FROM LEADING SEAMAN WILSON J D

STATES UPON RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM HIS MOTHER DATED 16/2 ADVISING

POTTS NAME MENTIONED IN A BROADCAST HE INTERVIEWED IN JULY

PRISONERS OF WAR ENQUIRY DEPT WARWICK HOUSE NEAR ST JAMES PARK (.)

A CLERK MAKING TWO PHONE CALLS INFORMED WILSON THAT IT COULD BE ASSUMED

AS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT FROM THE BROADCAST THAT POTTS WAS A POW AND

HIS ADDRESS WOULD BE DULAG LUFT (.) ON THIS INCORRECT INFORMATION

WILSON DESPACHED CABLE REFERRED TO IN YOUR L461 1/8 NO BLAME APPEARS

ATTACHABLE TO WILSON (.) MATTER OF INNACURATE INFORMATION BEING

SUPPLIED WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH BRITISH RED CROSS (.)

CHECKED ON NOMINAL ROLL
ACW Chambers

D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION
318

*Please copy
to signals, with Nom.
Roll markings*

Casualty

THIS PAGE IS REPRODUCED FROM A BADLY FADED OR ILLEGIBLE SOURCE.
SCANNING THIS ITEM AT A HIGHER RESOLUTION WILL NOT IMPROVE ITS LEGIBILITY.

St 8774

6936

R.A.A.F. Form A.14
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(Revised October, 1941.)

CYPHER MESSAGE

Serial No.

P/O Brown

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

TO	AIR FORCE MELBOURNE.	T.O.O. 2020/Z/22	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of	2025/Z/23
FROM	O.H.Q. R.A.A.F. KINGSWAY.	System	BY W/T

AL.499 22/8.

941179

REFERENCE AUS 400122 SGT. POTT J. H. PRESUMED DEAD THIS SIGNAL
 OUR CAS 175. FURTHER TO OUR AL.767 18/3 I.R.C. COMMITTEE GENEVA
 ADVISE 546430 LAC GOWING A.W.A. MEMBER SAME CREW A/SGT POTT
 STATES GERMAN MEDICAL AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED HIM THAT SGT. POTT
 DIED SHORTLY AFTER ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL. REFERENCE YOUR L.461
 1/8 HAVE WRITTEN A/S WILSON P.D. BUT NO REPLY YET RECEIVED AS
 WILSON APPARENTLY STILL AT SEA. WILL ADVISE EARLIEST.

CHECKED ON ORIGINAL FILE
PK

Casualty

D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION
2/11/8

Enc 43a

O.N.O. KINGSWAY

AIR BOARD

L. 461 1/8

o/d	WILSON	J.D	PMO/76	R.A.N.V.R.
c/o	NAVAL	L.O	AUSTRALIA	HOUSE
LONDON	HAS	RADIOED <i>cabled</i>	HIS	MOTHER
"HAVE	LOCATED	POTTIS	AND	"WRITTEN"
(.)	WILSON	CLOSE	FRIEND	OF
AUS 400122	SGT.	POTT	J.H.	TO
WDM	MESSAGE	REFERS	(.)	SEE
AL/PX5919	RIGHT	MAY	PRESUMING	DEATH
POTTS	(.)	REQUEST	ARRANGE	INTERROGATION
WILSON	AS	TO	GROUND S	HIS
STATEMENT	AND	MEANING	AND	ADVISE

///////////////// *for Washington file* _____ *10/45* 12

*50 Pott
163/152/141*

*ENCLOSURE
163/152/141*

HOLBORN 3434.
TELEPHONE: Extn.....



AIR MINISTRY,
LONDON, W.C.2

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

THE
UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE,

*65
11
48*
8th May, 1942.

and the following number
quoted:—
P.363914/41/P.4.Cas. ✓

AUS/400122 Sergeant J.H.Pott.

Sir,

In confirmation of our cable dated *8th May/42* I am to inform you that according to German Totenliste No.66, Sergeant J.H. Pott was killed in Africa on 17th November, 1941. Grave not yet notified. His death has accordingly been officially presumed to have occurred on 17th November, 1941.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

W. M. Shepherd.

*68
16
7
42*

for Director of Personal Services.

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne,
Australia.



National Archives of Australia NAA: A705, 163/152/141

Enc 39a

AIR MINISTRY KINGSWAY

London

AIR BOARD

P48

18/6

AUS	COOISE	SERGEANT	POTT	J
H	(.)	FULL	CHRISTIAN	HARRIS
JOHN	HENRY	(.)	YOUNG	PK 6100
JUNE 17	REFERS			

168

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page.

Enc 3la

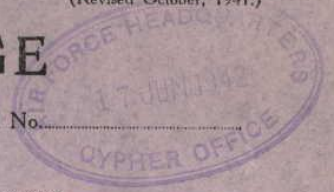
St 277

ACTION COPY CYPHER MESSAGE

R.A.A.F. Form A.14
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(Revised October, 1941.)

8284

Serial No.



This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

TO	AIR BOARD MELBOURNE	T.O.O 1126/Z/17	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of	1735/Z/17
FROM	AIR MINISTRY KINGSWAY	System	W.T.

PX6100 17/6

FURNISH FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES AUS/400122 SGT POT ^{94/1179} J.H. ISSUE
 CERTIFIED NOTIFICATION DEATH DELAYED PENDING REPLY QUOTE P363914/
 R141/DP

Casualty

D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION
180
18/6

Encl 37a

C O P Y.

AIR BOARD MELBOURNE

TCO 0820/2/5

AIR MINISTRY KINGSWAY

1708/2/5
W T

PK 5075 5/6

FOLLOWING DEATH PRESUMPTIONS BEING PUBLISHED ON 9/6/42/ AUS 404226
P/O JOHN LAMBERT ASPREY. AUS 400222 P/O JOSEPH WESLEY GREENING
AUS 400028 SGT IAN MACPHERSON INCE. 111325 P/O DONALD SUMMAN MARTIN
AUS 400122 SGT J H POTT. AUS 402540 P/O DAVID ARNOLD RAY (911524(
911525Y) SGT HENRY BRUCE BARCROFT TEESDALE SMITH.

8/0 R.A.A.F.

Hand 36

163/152/141
R.A.A.F.

*CS
15
5
42*

Reference:-
S.62891/RAAF.

Air Headquarters,
Royal Air Force,
Middle East.

Checked for
Indexing

In Action

AUS/400122 SGT. POTT J.H.

RECEIVED
20 MAY 1942
AIR REGISTRY

27th January 1942.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a copy of the letter sent by the O.C. of the squadron of the above airman.

It is apparent that in his Squadron he is regarded as deceased. The O.C. of the Squadron has been written to for further information, which will be communicated to you later.

It is suggested that in casualties of this kind Presumption of death might be reached before the customary lapse of six months.

Yours faithfully,

J. McDougall

R.A.A.F. Representative,
for Squadron Leader,
President.
Standing Committee of Adjustment.

W.P. 21/5
D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION

The Secretary,
Air Board, Melbourne.
AUSTRALIA.

21/5/42
Col

W.P. 9/10
2/6

Encl 36¹²

No. 216 Squadron,
Royal Air Force,
Middle East Command.

216/928/11/P.1.

31st. December, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Pott,

It is with deep regret that I have to report that your son, Sgt. J.H. Pott, has to be reported "missing believed killed" on the night of 17/18 November, 1941.

Your son was a member of a crew who were carrying out a difficult but most important operation and was selected as one of the crew for this operation owing to his exceptional keenness and devotion to duty.

Your son had not been with the Squadron very long, but in the short time that he had been with us he had shown me, and all the N.C.O.s and men who worked with him, what a really excellent type of man he was.

His death is a very great loss to the Squadron and I am joined by the rest of the Squadron, officers and men, in expressing our deepest sympathy with you in your bereavement.

I can but add that in this time of war he died serving his country in a manner expected of a brave man.

I remain your most sincerely,

(Signed) Gilbert R. H.

Wing Commander.

Mrs. F.G. Pott,
198 Graham Street,
Port Melbourne,
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

71417

XXXXX LA.5271

MAY 18 1942



Dear Madam,

It is with deep regret that I have to advise you that the Air Ministry, London has now presumed that your son, Sergeant John Henry Pott, lost his life on the 17th November, 1941, as a result of Air operations, the date on which he became missing.

This action has been taken on information contained in a report in a German Official List received by Air Ministry through the International Red Cross Society.

The Minister for Air and members of the Air Board desire me to extend to you their profound sympathy in your great loss.

Yours faithfully,

MCK
 (M.C. Langslow)
SECRETARY.

Mrs. F.G. Pott,
 198 Graham Street,
PORT MELBOURNE, Vic.

OK 11/5
16/5

Mr. Bowley

6 Enc 32a

4418

R.A.A.F. Form A.14
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(Revised October, 1941.)

ACTION COPY CYPHER MESSAGE

Serial No.

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

TO	AIR BOARD MELBOURNE.	T.O.O. 1801/Z/9	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of	0818/Z/10
FROM	H.Q. R.A.A.F. MIDDLE EAST (B.P.O.)	System	BY W/T.

M.991 9/5.

94/1179

FURTHER MY M.518 19/11 AND M.875 25/12. DEATH OF AUS 400122 SGT. POTT
J. H. R.A.A.F. OFFICIALLY PRESUMED BY AIR MINISTRY W.E.F. NOVEMBER
17 1941 REQUEST YOU INFORM NEXT KIN.

Casualty

D/S
D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION

Enc 31a

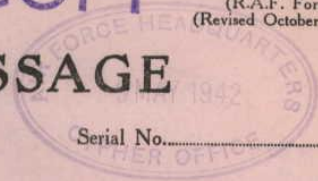
Sl 274

3925

Spl Casely

ACTION COPY CYPHER MESSAGE

R.A.A.F. Form A.14
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(Revised October, 1941.)



Serial No. _____

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

TO	AIR BOARD MELBOURNE	T.O.O. 1302 Z/8	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of	0524 Z/9
FROM	AIR MIN KINGSWAY	System	W/T.

PX 5919 8/5

94/1179

132/1640

DEATH OF AUS 400122 SGT J.H. POTT AND AUS 400028
SGT I. INGE OFFICIALLY PRESUMED TO HAVE OCCURRED
17/11 1941 AND 21/1 1942 RESPECTIVELY KINNOT(.)

*Bin not to be informed until 17/5.
see 29.
gmw
10/5*

Casualty

ASM 10/5
D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION

IMMEDIATE

COPY.

Encl 30^A
POW. List No. FC.62

CABLE RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE,
GENEVA, BY THE PRISONERS OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU.

Received: 1025 hrs 7/5/42.
Submitted: 1430 hrs 7/5/42.

BERLIN CABLES:

403431 *Sgt.* McLEOD, E. F. D. Killed Wellington 26/3/42.

BERLIN COMMUNICATES:

PLT/SGT.

400122

~~POTT~~ *John Henry.*

Killed 17/11/41 in Africa
enquiring details stop
kindly inform Red Cross
regarding both.

Business of War Information
Bureau rang regard A.L. Brandt.

Staff Sergeant Potts. rang regarding
his brother, now reported killed.
I rang him & advised him to
break news. Procured
matters with A/S/O leadbeater, as
file was with her. (also case
of Sgt. Mac) left matters until
Monday to discuss with you.

9/5/42

Staff Sergeant Potts rang to
request that letter be
delayed for week as he
wished it to arrive when
his father who is in the
country is on leave & will
Elmer Potts

Encl. 27A

CYPHER MESSAGE

TO AIRBOARD MELBOURNE
FROM AIRMAN KWY

PX 5549 29/4

CONFIRMATION OF DEATH OF AUS/R00028 SGT 1 M INCE AND AUS/400122
SGT J.H. POTT NOW RECEIVED FROM GERMAN TOTENLISTEN NOS 68 and
66 /NO GRAVES STATED (.) DEATH PRESUMPTION PROCEEDING (.)
KINNOT (.)

R.A.F. Form 76.
S 575 (Naval)

MESSAGE FORM.

Hand 26H

Office Serial No. _____
Office Date Stamp. _____

No. of Groups
GR

COPY

Preface OUT

22.12.41.

TO*

(Above this line is for Signals use only)

R.A.A.F. LIAISON OFFICER AUSTRALIA HOUSE STRAND LONDON W.C.2.

FROM: RECORDS TELEX GLOUCESTER

Originator's Number _____ Date _____ Year/mo _____

FURTHER

INFORMATION

FROM

INTERNATIONAL

RED

CROSS

SOCIETY

STATES

AUS/40022

SERGEANT

J.H.POTT

PREVIOUSLY

REPORTED

MISSING NOW

REPORTED

MISSING

BELIEVED

KILLED

AIR BOARD

INFORMED

This message must be sent AS WRITTEN and may be sent by W/T.

Signature _____

This message must be sent IN CYPHER and may be sent by W/T.

Signature _____

Originator's instructions. * Degree of Priority. * **IMPORTANT.**

Time of Origin.

† Originator to insert "NOT" if message is not to go by W/T over any part of the route.

System Time In _____

Reader _____

System Time out _____

Reader _____

Sender _____

System Time out _____

Reader _____

Sender _____

T.O.R.

T.H.I.

* The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromising distinguishing signals, etc., by omitting to remove their signification from the address, etc., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to be re-inserted in P/L.

Hand 25B

MESSAGE FORM.

R.A.F. Form 96.
S 575 (Naval)

Office Serial No.

Office Date Stamp.

COPIES

No. of Groups
GR

CYPER

Preface OUT

(Above this line is for Signals use only)

TO*

AIR BOARD MELBOURNE (RPT) AIR MINISTRY KINGSWAY AUSCASUALTIES

FROM* RECORDS GLOUCESTER

Originator's Number
07/857

Date
22/12

Your/my

REGRET INFORM YOU

INFORMATION FROM

INTERNATIONAL RED

SOCIETY STATES

AUS/409122

SERGEANT

J.H.POTT

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING

NOW REPORTED

MISSING

BELIEVED

KILLED IN ACTION

PLEASE INFORM

NEXT OF KIN

MOTHER

MRS F G POTT

198 GRAHAM STREET PORT

MELBOURNE

VICTORIA

LETTER FOLLOWS

DIRECT TO NEXT OF KIN.

This message must be sent AS WRITTEN and may be sent by W/T.

This message must be sent IN CYPER and may be sent by W/T.

Originator's Instructions. * Degree of Priority.

Time of Origin.

Signature

Signature

IMPORTANT

F/LT.

† Originator to insert "NOT" if message is not to go by W/T over any part of the route.

(Below this line is for Signals use only.)

System in

Reader

Sender

System out

Reader

Sender

System out

Reader

Sender

T.O.R.

T.H.I.

* The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromising distinguishing signals, etc., by omitting their significance from the address, etc., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to be re-inserted in P/L.

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A705-163/152/141

(3/1035) Wt. 24387/1456 200M (add. 9) 41. B. & S. Ltd. 51-1078

Encl 204

Telephone No. : SPRINGWELL (GLOUCESTER) 2407

RECORD OFFICE,

Telegraphic Address :

RECORDS ELEX, GLOUCESTER.

ROYAL AIR FORCE,

GLOUCESTER.

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

AIR OFFICER i/c RECORDS,

Date 5th January 1942

Address as opposite.
and the following number quoted :-

C7/AUS/400122

Your Ref. :

Sir,

Enclosed please find copies of letters addressed to the next of kin of the undermentioned airmen:-

AUS/400122 SGT. J.H.POTT
AUS/402661 SGT. R.H.L. KILLEN

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J.E. Anderson
Air Commodore,
Air Officer i/c Records,
ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The Secretary,
The Air Board,
Royal Australian Air Force,
Melbourne,
AUSTRALIA.

2407

6 incl 24B

5th January 1942

C7/ME/400122

Dear Madam,

It is my painful duty to confirm the notification sent to you by the Australian Air Board, informing you that according to further information received from the International Red Cross Society, using German information, your son No. ME/400122 Sergeant J.H. POTTS, Royal Australian Air Force of No. 216 Squadron, Royal Air Force, previously reported "missing" is now reported "missing believed killed in action".

The report states that Sergeant POTTS was killed on the 17th November 1941.

Although there is unhappily little reason to doubt the accuracy of this report, it will be necessary to record the casualty as "missing believed killed" until confirmed by further evidence, or until, in the absence of such evidence, it becomes necessary owing to lapse of time, to presume for official purposes that death has occurred. Action to that effect would not however be taken until at least six months from the date when your son was reported missing.

The Air Council desire me, in conveying this information, to express their profound sympathy with you in your grave anxiety.

I am,

Dear Madam,

Mrs. F.G. Potts,
198 Graham Street,
Port Melbourne,
Victoria,

Your obedient servant,

Air Commodore,
Air Officer i/c Records,

National Archives of Australia

RCY NAA: A705; 163/152/141

7th January 1942

C7/115/400122

Dear Madam,

It is my painful duty to confirm the notification sent to you by the Australian Air Board, informing you that according to further information received from the International Red Cross Society, using German information, your son No. 18/400122 Sergeant J.H. POTTS, Royal Australian Air Force of No. 216 Squadron, Royal Air Force, previously reported "missing" is now reported "missing believed killed in action".

The report states that Sergeant POTTS was killed on the 17th November 1941.

Although there is wholy little reason to doubt the accuracy of this report, it will be necessary to record the casualty as "missing believed killed" until confirmed by further evidence, or until, in the absence of such evidence, it becomes necessary owing to lapse of time, to presume for official purposes that death has occurred. Action to that effect would not however be taken until at least six months from the date when your son was reported missing.

The Air Council desire me, in conveying this information, to express their profound sympathy with you in your grave anxiety.

I am,

Dear Madam,

Your obedient servant,

Mrs. F.G. Potts,
198 Graham Street,
Port Melbourne,
Victoria

Air Commodore,
Air Officer i/c Records,



28564

APR -2 1942

RAAF.163/152/141(23A)

Dear Madam,

I refer to previous correspondence concerning your son, Sergeant J. H. Pott.

I deeply regret to advise you that further information received in this Department from Royal Air Force Headquarters in the Middle East by cablegram indicates that your son lost his life on the night of the 16th November.

This cablegram advises that an officer who was in your son's aircraft, but is now a prisoner of war has written from the prison camp stating that your son and another member of the crew lost their lives when the machine was shot down over Gazala by German fighter aircraft.

This officer also writes that others in the aircraft were seriously injured and are prisoners of war.

The Air Ministry will, however, still classify your son as "missing but believed to have lost his life," until this information is confirmed or death presumption action is taken. When this is done you will be informed.

May I again express the sincere sympathy of this Department.

Yours faithfully,

M.C. Langslow
 (M.C. Langslow)
 SECRETARY.

Mrs. F.G. Pott,
 198 Graham Street,
 PORT MELBOURNE. S.C.8.

M.W. v/o
 M.D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION

3/13

Encl 22a

ACTION COPY ⁸⁹

R.A.A.F. Form A.14.
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(December, 1931)

6109



CYPHER MESSAGE

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages. Serial No. _____

~~This message must be circulated under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secure file, and all drafts or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in clear or code messages or in any non-secret correspondence.~~

TO	AIR BOARD MELBOURNE	TOO 2106 Z/18	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of	1350Z/19
FROM	OHQ RAAF KINGSWAY	System	W.T.

D.3905/141-- 1.7.

AL767 18/3 (.)

94/1179

CASUALTY AUS 400122 SGT POTT J H YOUR L 81 17/2 FURTHER OUR AL872 18/2.
SIGNAL FROM HQ RAF ME M.977 17/3 REPEATED AIR BOARD GIVES INFORMATION
DEATH ABOVE AIRMAN. NOW CLASSIFIED MISSING BELIEVED KILLED (.)

Leasnach

5235

Lac bipes

ACTION COPY



CYPHER MESSAGE

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

Serial No. _____

R.A.A.F. Form A.14.
(I.A.F. Form 583)
(December, 1937)
17 MAR 1942

~~This message must be distributed under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secret file, and all drafts or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in clear or code messages or in any non secret correspondence.~~

TO	AIR MIN K/W RECORDS GLOS AIR BOARD	TOO	1112Z/17
	MELBOURNE	Time of	2051Z/17
FROM	HQRAFME BPO	System	W/T

D.3902/141. - 57.

94/1179

M977 17/3
 FB FURTHER MY 518 1 NOV AND MY M622 18 DEC AND YOUR X5949 23
 DEC (.) LETTER RECEIVED FROM LIEUT C J BONINGTON PRISONER
 OF WAR WHO STATES 740668 P/O D S MARTIN AND AUS/400122 SGT
 POTT J H RAAF WERE BOTH KILLED MOST OF THE OTHER CREW AND
 PASSENGERS SERIOUSLY INJURED AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN OVER
 GAZALA BY GERMAN FIGHTER P/O MARTIN AND SGT POTT REMAIN
 CLASSIFIED MISSING BELIEVED KILLED UNLESS FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
 RECEIVED FROM YOU

IMPORTANT

ADM 18/3
Casualty
 D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION

P/O Walt.

400122 Byg. H. Pott

Brother Frank Mr F.G. Pott,
advising he received information
that in Berlin broadcast
9/2/42 P.O. vi. a John Pott
of Melbourne was mentioned.

MX 2211

XU. 1338

?
Gracie



Plat

Encl 187

ACTION COPY SECRET CYPHER MESSAGE

RA.A.F. Form A.14.
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(December, 1937)

Serial No. _____
MELBOURNE
20 FEB 1942

This message must be circulated under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secret file, and all drafts or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in clear or code messages or in any non-secret correspondence.

TO	AIR FORCE MELBOURNE	TOO 1154 Z/19	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of	1952 Z/19
FROM	OHQ RAAF KINGSWAY	System	WT

D.396/141.—C.257.

ALB72 19/2(.)

94/1179

CASUALTY AUS 400122 SGT POTT J H(.) YOUR L81 17/2(.)

THIS AIRMAN'S NAME NOT INCLUDED IN ANY BERLIN BROADCASTS RECEIVED
THIS COUNTRY ON 9/2 BUT MAY BE CONFUSED WITH SGT BOTT RAF WHOSE
NAME BROADCAST BY BERLIN 7/2 REQUESTING IRC GENEVA ENQUIRE
POSSIBILITY NOW(.)

MUR 20/12
D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION
2740/120
20/12

Leamington
163/152/141

THIS PAGE IS REPRODUCED FROM A BADLY FADED OR ILLEGIBLE SOURCE.
SCANNING THIS ITEM AT A HIGHER RESOLUTION WILL NOT IMPROVE ITS LEGIBILITY.

R.A.A.F. Form A 22 (Revised May, 1937).
(R.A.F. Form 96A.)
(S.575A. (Naval).)

MESSAGE FORM.

Office Serial No. *Encl 17A*

IN
and :-
Preface. OUT

No. of Groups. **GR**
Office Date Stamp.

(Above this line is for Signals use only.)

TO * *Austrair London*

FROM * *Air Board*

Originator's Number.

L81

Date.

7/2

In reply to Number and Date.

(Write horizontally.)

<i>Aus/400122</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>POTT</i>	<i>J H</i>	<i>0</i>	5
<i>lost</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>received</i>	<i>unofficial</i>	10
<i>advice</i>	<i>Berlin</i>	<i>radio</i>	<i>reported</i>	<i>9</i>	15
<i>February</i>	<i>this</i>	<i>airman</i>	<i>prisoner</i>	<i>of</i>	20
<i>war</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>investigate</i>	<i>and</i>	25
<i>inquire</i>	<i>International Red</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Society</i>		30
<i>possibility</i>	<i>P. O. W.</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Records</i>	<i>Glos</i>	35
<i>C7/857</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>refers</i>		40

This message must be sent AS WRITTEN and may be sent by W/T
Signature

This message must be sent IN CYPHER and may be sent by W/T
Signature *[Signature]*

Originator's Instructions.* Degree of Priority.*

Bright service

TIME OF ORIGIN.
0544
T.O.R.

* Originator to insert "NOT" if message is not to go by W/T or by hand in the route. (Below this line is for Signals use only.)

System in.	Time in.	Reader.	Sender.	System out.	Time out.	Reader.	Sender.	System out.	Time out.	Reader.	Sender.	T.H.I.

The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromise distinguishing signals, &c., by omitting to remove their signification from the address, &c., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to re-inserted in P/L.



6776

JAN 26 1942

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX MXY.550.

RAAF.163/152/141(16A)

Dear Madam,

With reference to previous correspondence concerning your son, Sergeant John Henry Pott, I desire to inform you that this department has now received a report of the circumstances of the operational flight from which your son failed to return.

The report was prepared by the Officer Commanding your son's Squadron. It discloses that on the night of the 16/17th November, the weather conditions were exceptionally bad. The aircraft of which your son was a member of the crew was due back at its base at 3.30 a.m. It was heard over the Fuka Satellite aerodrome at that time, but did not land. At 4.30 a.m. a message was received from an aircraft believed to have been your son's, which stated that it had made a forced landing but was undamaged and requesting a bearing to enable him to fix his location. This was given and at dawn another aircraft was sent to search. This searching aircraft received a radio signal from the forced landed aircraft stating that it was in the air. Shortly afterwards a signal "Stand by, I will call you later" was received. This was the last signal heard. A report received from the army also confirmed that an aircraft was heard to land, but took off whilst army personnel were attempting to locate it. A flight of Hurricane aircraft sent to search for the aircraft in the Sidi Barrani area as far as Tobruk were unable to locate it.

This report does not in itself indicate that your son has lost his life. The Air Ministry reported your son as "missing believed to have lost his life" on the basis of the International Red Cross Society report, mentioned in my letter dated the 2nd January, 1942.

Yours faithfully,

M.C. Langslow
(M. C. Langslow)
SECRETARY.

Mrs. F. G. Pott,
198 Graham Street,
PORT MELBOURNE. VIC.

JHW p10
D.F.S. CASUALTY SECTION
21/1

Enclosure 15a

PRECIS OF CIRCUMSTANCIAL REPORT.

Aircraft Involved: Bombay 5847. Date. 16/11/41.

R.A.A.F. Personnel Involved: AUS. 400122. Sgt. POTT. J.H.

*One copy only
P.M.W.*

From: Officer Commanding, No. 216 Squadron, R.A.F.

To: Headquarters, No. 202 Group, R.A.F.

Date: 19.11.1941.

Ref: 216/928/11/Pl.

FO 330 P.

OPERATIONS NIGHT 16/17. Bombay Aircraft

After referring to No. 202 Group, R.A.F. S. 27 Air 17/10/1941, Appendix "A", paragraph 6, report states that on the night of the 16/17th November, the weather conditions were exceptionally bad. It continues that the aircraft which was captained by Flight Sergeant WEST, was due back at 1330 hours was heard over the Fuke Satellite at that time, but although the chance light was on he did a circuit of the aerodrome and then disappeared in a westerly direction. At 0430 hours a telephone message from Bagush stated that a Bombay had forced landed with 20 gallons of petrol and that he wanted Bagush to take a bearing for him as he had been unable to locate his target. Bagush were requested to give bearings, and advised that an aircraft would be sent at dawn. This was done, but after this aircraft had been in the air for 30 minutes, it received a message from the force landed aircraft, which was also received by Bagush, stating that he was airborne and requesting bearings. These were given and ten minutes later - "Stand by. I will call you later" was received. This was the last heard.

Forward area of the army reported that a patrol heard an aircraft land near the wire, but while searching for it, heard it take off.

Raiding aircraft, and a flight of Hurricanes despatched to search the Sidi Barrani area as far as Tobruk but could not locate this aircraft.

The report considers that the crew and passengers may not be in the hands of the enemy as they had food for 4 or 5 days and were armed.



507

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX MXY550

JAN -2 1942

RAAF.163/152/141(14A)

Dear Madam,

I deeply regret that I have to confirm Air Board telegram dated the 23rd December, 1941, informing you that your son, Sergeant John Henry Pott, previously reported missing, has now been reported missing but believed to have lost his life in action.

This information was received by this department from the Air Ministry, London, quoting a report received from the International Red Cross Society at Geneva that your son lost his life on the night of the 16th, or the early morning of the 17th November, 1941.

At present no details are available of the operational flight from which your son failed to return, nor of the facts on which the International Red Cross Society bases its report. I assure you that should these details be received by this department they will be immediately communicated to you.

Although there is, unfortunately, no reason to doubt the International Red Cross Society report, it is the practice of the Air Ministry to await further evidence before it states that a member of the Air Force has definitely lost his life. In the meantime the Air Ministry will classify your son as "missing but believed to have lost his life".

Should corroboration of the report be forthcoming a definite statement will then be made that your son has lost his life and a certificate to that effect will be issued by this department.

In the absence of such corroboration steps will be taken after the lapse of a certain time to presume your son's death, and you will be informed when it is proposed to take this action.

May I again convey to you the sincere sympathy of the Air Board in your present anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

M.C. Langslow
(M.C. Langslow)
SECRETARY.

Mrs. F.G. Pott,
198 Graham Street,
PORT MELBOURNE.

N. 1/1
D. P. S. CASUALTY SECTION

ACTION COPY

End 13A

RAAF Form A.14.

(RAAF Form 683)
(Revised 1937)



CYPHER MESSAGE

DEFENCE
163/152/141

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages. Serial No. _____

~~This message must be classified under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secret file, and all details or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in case of code messages or in any non-secret correspondence.~~

TO	T O O 0636/Z/25
AIRBOARD MELBOURNE	Receipt Despatch
	Time of 1635/Z/26
FROM HQ R.A.F. M.E. B.P.O.	System W/T

D.3903/141.—C.237.

M.875 25/12

94/1179

FURTHER MY M.518 19/11 L.5847

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS THROUGH AIR
MINISTRY STATED AUS/400122 SERGT J H POTT RAAF KILLED NIGHT 16/17
NOVEMBER. NOW RECLASSIFIED MISSING BELIEVED KILLED AND DEATH
PRESUMPTION WILL FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE.

IMPORTANT.

Casualty

Encl 129

CASUALTY SECTION,
AIR FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS,
MELBOURNE, S.C.I.

Serial No. 94/1179

Date 24.12.41

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN CATEGORY
OF A CASUALTY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

To: D. Section
A.2. R.E.3.
A.3. R.E.4.
R.E.2. R.E.5.

Number
400122

Rank
Sgt

Name
POTT J.A.

Unit
Raa 7th RA 7

The abovenamed airman who was notified to you on 24.11.41
as having been reported missing in quarters has now been
reported Missing behind Kulu on 24/16/17.11.41 (date of casualty)
in action, M.E

L. J. D. Smith

(D.P.S.)
Squadron Leader,
CASUALTY SECTION.

(F16C/41)

Encl 2
CASUALTY SECTION,
AIR FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS,
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

Serial No. 94/1179
Date 24.12.41

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN CATEGORY
OF A CASUALTY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

To: Minister
Secretary, Air Board.
C.A.S.
A.M.P.
J.M.
D.O.P.S.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
400122	<u>Apt.</u>	<u>POTT J.H.</u>	<u>Raa7 at Ra2</u>

The abovenamed airman ^{officer} who was notified to you on 24.11.41 as having been reported missing air operations has now been reported missing believed killed on night 16/17.11.41 (date of casualty).

(D.P.S.) CASUALTY SECTION.
H. J. Smith Ho
Flight Lieutenant, *Sydney*

(PD157/41.)

CASUALTY SECTION, *File 126*
AIR FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS,
WELBOURNE, S.C.I.

Serial No. 426

Date 24.12.41

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN CATEGORY
OF A CASUALTY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

To: Minister
Secretary, Air Board.
C.A.S.
A.M.P.
E.M.
D.D.P.S.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
400122	Sgt	POTT J.H.	1307th Coy Rgt.

The abovenamed officer
airman who was notified to you on 20.11.41
as having been reported missing has now been
reported deceased (date of
(casualty.

DECEASED PERSONNEL SECTION

(PD157/41) **O.I.C. OVERSEAS PAY**

(D.P.S.) **CASUALTY SECTION.**

Flight Lieutenant, Sydney

b,

File No 112

P.M. 44.

Postmaster-General's Department



Commonwealth of Australia

24 DEC.

DEPT OF AIR REGISTRY

Memorandum to SECTY

VICTORIA BKS MELBNE C 1



POST OFFICE

YOUR URGENT TELEGRAM LODGED MELBOURNE 1/19PM 23/12/41

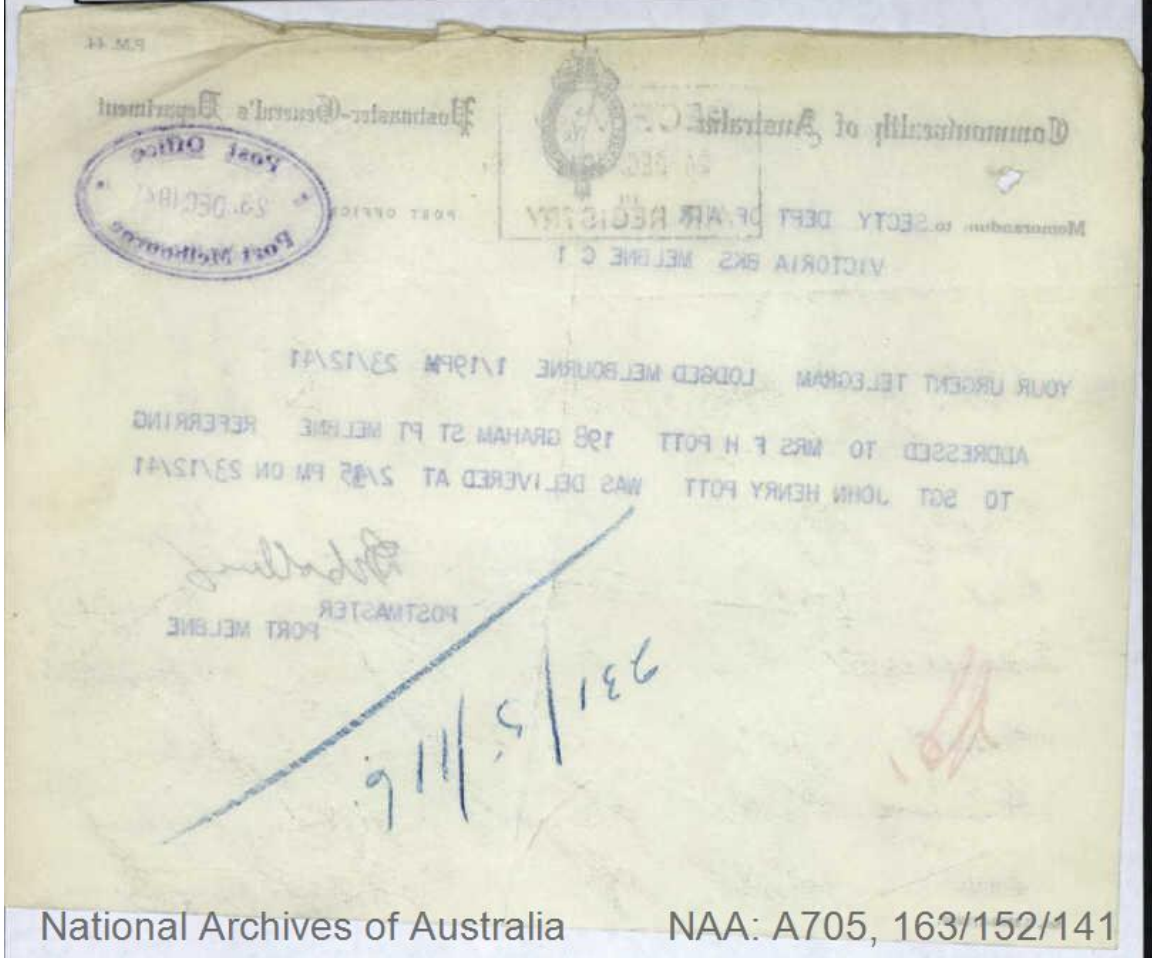
ADDRESSED TO MRS F H POTT 198 GRAHAM ST PT MELBNE REFERRING
TO SGT JOHN HENRY POTT WAS DELIVERED AT 2/35 PM ON 23/12/41

[Handwritten signature]

POSTMASTER
PORT MELBNE

[Red handwritten mark]

THIS PAGE IS THE REVERSE OF THE PREVIOUS PAGE
AND MAY NOT BE RELEVANT TO THE FILE



MESSAGE FORM

Office Serial No.
 No. of Office Date Stamp.
 Groups. **GR**

Call IN
 and :-
 Preface OUT

POSTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 DELIVERY PERSONAL (Above this line is for Signals use only.)

TO* *Mrs J. G. Pott, 198 Graham Street, Port Melbourne*

FROM* *Air Board* Originator's Number. *PA 902* Date *23/12* In reply to Number and Date.

(Write horizontally.)

<i>Deeply</i>	<i>regret</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>inform</i>	<i>you</i>	5
<i>that</i>	<i>further</i>	<i>information</i>	<i>received</i>	<i>through</i>	10
<i>International</i>	<i>Red</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Society</i>	<i>indicates</i>	15
<i>that</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>John</i>	20
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Pott</i>	<i>previously</i>	<i>reported</i>	<i>missing</i>	25
<i>on</i>	<i>night</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>16/17 Nov 1941</i>	<i>is</i>	30
<i>now</i>	<i>reported</i>	<i>missing</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>believed</i>	35
<i>to</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>lost</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>life</i>	40
<i>in</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>(.)</i>	<i>Any</i>	<i>further</i>	45
<i>information</i>	<i>received</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>immediately</i>	50
<i>conveyed</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>you</i>			55
					60
					65
					70
					75

This message must be sent AS WRITTEN and may ~~not~~ be sent by W/T. Signature *[Signature]*
 This message must be sent IN CYPHER and may ~~not~~ be sent by W/T. Signature *[Signature]*
 Originator's Instructions.* Degree of Priority.* *Important*
 TIME OF ORIGIN. *0305/2*
 T.O.R.
 † Originator to insert "NOT" if message is not to go by W/T over any part of the route. (Below this line is for Signals use only.)

System in.	Time in.	Reader.	Sender.	System out.	Time out.	Reader.	Sender.	System out.	Time out.	Reader.	Sender.	T.H.I.

* The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromising distinguishing signals, etc., by omitting to remove their signification from the address, etc., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to be re-inserted in P/L.
 † 2105/2.40 - 0.11.38

ACTION COPY

R.A.A.F. Form A.14.
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(December, 1937)



CYPHER MESSAGE

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages.

Serial No.

~~This message must be distributed under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secret file, and all drafts or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in clear or code messages or in any non secret correspondence.~~

TO	AIR BOARD MELBOURNE RPTD AIR MIN AUS/CAS	TOO. 1105Z/22	Receipt	Despatch
			Time of 1732Z/22	
FROM	RECORDS GLOS	System	W. T.	

D.2963/1 41.—C.237.

IMPORTANT

C7.857 22/12

94/1179

REGRET TO INFORM YOU INFORMATION FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY STATES AUS/400122 SGT J H POTT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING NOW REPORTED MISSING BELIEVED KILLED IN ACTION PLEASE INFORM NEXT OF KIN MOTHER MRS F G POTT 198 GRAHAM STREET PORT MELBOURNE VICTORIA(.) LETTER FOLLOWS DIRECT TO NEXT OF KIN(.)

Casualty

ENCE 9a

Form Z.19
G.O. P.9

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION ACT

REPATRIATION PERSONAL PARTICULARS FORM

Surname POTT (Block letters) Christian Names John Henry

Navy
* *Army* No. 400122 Rank Sergeant Unit RAAF att. R.A.F.
Air Force Rating

1. Daily rate of pay of member at— * Date of Death <u>Missing</u> * Date of Discharge <u>16/17.11.41.</u>	1. <i>Active pay 1/6 operative of 2/6 exchange 1/4 15/4</i> <i>def pay 2/-</i>
2. Name and address of Allottee and amount of allotment from member's pay <i>4.0</i>	2. <i>Mrs L. M. Pott 198 Graham St. Port Melbourne S.C.7 Allotment 6/- per diem.</i>
3. Dependant's allowance paid	3. <i>Nil.</i>
4. Relationship of allottee and/or dependant to member	4. <i>Mother</i>
5. Particulars of dependency	5. <i>Not dependent.</i>
6. If married, date and place of marriage	6. <i>Single at date of enlistment.</i>
7. Names and dates of birth of children (if any)	7. Born
8. State if marriage and/or birth certificate(s) were produced	8.
9. Date (inclusive) up to which pay allotment and/or dependant's allowance will be paid	9.

* Strike out if not applicable.

Alexander
for Finance Officer.

At Melbourne

Date 27/11/41

ENCLOSURE

P O T T

John Henry

400122

Sergeant

RAAF att. R.A.F.

Missing
16/17.11.41.

Active Pay 11/6
Specialist 2/6
Exchange 1/4
15/4

Relief Pay 2/6

Mr. H. M. Hall
177 Graham St. Port Melbourne V.C. 7
Reliefment of pen them.

Not.

Master

Not dependent.

Single at date of enlistment.

Not known

Not known

92176

MKY550

DEC -3 1941

RAAF. 163/152/141 (8A)

Dear Madam,

This letter is to confirm Air Board telegram dated the 24th November, 1941, informing you that your son, Sergeant John Henry Pott, has been reported missing as a result of air operations.

The only additional information available at present in this Department discloses that your son was a member of the crew of an aircraft which failed to return from an operational flight in the Middle East on the night of the 16th November, 1941.

I desire to point out that, although your son has been reported missing, he is not necessarily killed or wounded. It is the practice of the Air Ministry, London, to cause enquiries to be made through the International Red Cross Society regarding all missing personnel and immediately any further news is received it will be communicated to you.

If you desire to make enquiries in Australia, it is suggested that you do so through the Australian Red Cross Society, the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, which is an official body, or the Apostolic Delegation's Prisoners of War Information Bureau. Your son's name has already been recorded with all these organisations.

Should you receive news regarding your son from some unofficial source it would be appreciated if you would advise this Department.

In the absence of further news, payment of your son's allotment will be continued as usual, the position being reviewed after three months.

May I extend to you the sincere sympathy of the Air Board in your present anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

M. C. Langslow
(M. C. Langslow)
Secretary.

Mrs. F. G. Pott,
198 Graham Street,
Port Melbourne,
Victoria.

gm 210 N. 27/11
27/11
N. P. S. CASUALTY SECTION

THIS PAGE IS REPRODUCED FROM A BADLY FADED OR ILLEGIBLE SOURCE.
SCANNING THIS ITEM AT A HIGHER RESOLUTION WILL NOT IMPROVE ITS LEGIBILITY.

WCL 69

Air Board,
Air Force Head-Quarters,
MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

Casualty Section.
25th. November 1941.

File No.

Chief Finance Officer,
Century Building,
Swanston St, Melbourne.

FORM Z.19.

Forwarded herewith ^{are} ~~xxx~~ s/ Form Z.19 in respect of the
undernamed for completion and return as soon as possible:-
F/O. Malcolm Hector WATSON - Missing, Middle East, 22.11.41.
400122 Sgt. POTT, John Henry - Missing, Middle East on night
of 16/17.11.41.

Enc. Z.19 (2) and copiss.

N.F/L
Group Captain,
DIRECTOR OF PERSONAL SERVICES.

(P845/41)

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A705, 163/152/141

163/152/141 Encl. 5a
CASUALTY SECTION,
AIR FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS,
MELBOURNE, S.C.I.

1/c Records.

Serial No. 94/1179

Date 24. 11. 41

NOTIFICATION OF CASUALTY

To: D. Section
A.2. R.E.3.
A.3. R.E.4.
R.E.2. R.E.5.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
400122	Sgt	POTT J.A.	RacFut Ra2

Date of Casualty night 16/17-11-41 Place Middle East
Nature of Casualty missing air operations.

(L.P.S.)
100 Squadron Leader,
CASUALTY SECTION.

(P159/41)

Serial No. 94/1179

CASUALTY SECTION.
Encl. 5-b.

Date 24. 11. 41

NOTIFICATION OF CASUALTY

To: Minister
Secretary, Air Board,
C.A.S.
A.M.F.
F.M.
D.D.P.S.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
400 12 2	Sgt	POTT J.A.	Rea 7th Rct
	^{night}		
	14.7.11-41	Place	Midda Enst.
		Nature of Casualty <u>Missing in operations.</u>	

J.J. Rouger No
D.P.S. Casualty Section.

(FD127/41)

Encl. 5c.

Royal Australian Air Force,
Casualty Section,
Air Force Head-Quarters,
MELBOURNE.

24 / 11 / 1941

Serial No. 312

NOTIFICATION OF MISSING PERSONNEL.

NUMBER : 400122

RANK: Spt

NAMES IN FULL: POTT, John Henry

UNIT: RCAF 4001

PLACE MISSING: Middle East

DATE MISSING: night 14/11/41

CAUSE:

OTHER REMARKS: Missing since 14/11/41

NEXT OF KIN RECORDED AS: Mother

ADDRESS : Mrs J. E. Pott
191 Graham St.
Port Melbourne
Vic.

DISTRIBUTION: Mr Roberts
Mr Alexander R 25/11/41
Mr Kerwin

DECEASED PERSONNEL SECTION

Group Captain,
DIRECTOR OF PERSONAL SERVICES.

F.P.D.35/41.

New Serial No 436

Commonwealth of Australia



P.M. 44.

Postmaster-General's Department



Memorandum to

0 I/G RAAF RECORDS

POST OFFICE

CENTURY HOUSE MELBOURNE

YOUR URGENT TELEGRAM LODGED MELBOURNE AT 4/20PM 24/11/41
ADDRESSED TO MRS F G POTT 198 GRAHAM ST PT MELBOURNE
REFERRING TO SGT JOHN HENRY POTT WAS DELIVERED AT 4/45P ON 24/11/41

94/1179

AD

[Signature]

POSTMASTER

PORT MELBOURNE

MESSAGE FORM

Office Serial No. _____

Cat. IN
 and :-
 Preface OUT

No. of Office Date Stamp.
GR

(Above this line is for Signals use only.)

TO* Mrs F G Pott 198 Graham Street, Port Melbourne Vic

FROM* Air Board P.A. 429 2/11

(Write horizontally.)

Regret	to	inform	you	that	5
your	son	Sergeant	John	Henry	10
Pott	is	reported	missing	as	15
the	result	of	our	operations	20
in	Middle	East	on	night	25
of	16/17 Nov. 1941	(.)	Any	further	30
information	received	will	be	immediately	35
conveyed	to	you			40
					45
					50
					55
					60
					65
					70
					75
					80
					85
					90
					95
					100

This message must be sent AS WRITTEN and may be sent by W/T. Signature <i>[Signature]</i>		This message must be sent IN CYPHER and may be sent by W/T. Signature _____		Originator's Instructions.* Degree of Priority.* Important		TIME OF ORIGIN. 0600		
* Originator to insert "NOT" if message is not to go by W/T over any part of the route. (Below this line is for Signals use only.)						T.O.R.		
System in.	Time in.	Reader.	Sender.	System out.	Time out.	Reader.	Sender.	T.H.I.

* The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromising distinguishability signals, &c., by omitting to remove their signification from the address, &c., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to be re-inserted in P/L.
 1186/9.40. - C 11923

ACTION COPY



CYPHER MESSAGE

This message must not be referred to in any but cypher messages. Serial No.

~~This message must be circulated under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secret file, and all drafts or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in clear or code messages or in any non-secret correspondence.~~

TO	AIR MIN KWY RECORDS GLOS	TO01802Z/19
	AIR BOARD MELBOURNE (R) BAO HELWAN	Receipt Despatch
		Time of CORRECTION... 1824Z/30
FROM	HQ HAF ME (BPO)	System WT

D.9903/1 41.—C.597.

M518 19/11 FB

(B) 216 SQDN

(D) 565667 F/SGT WEST C.E. PILOT WEM MISSING

740668 SGT. MARTIN D.S. PILOT MISSING

751885 SGT. HEARD R.P. AIR OBS MISSING.

546430 LAC GOWING R.W. F/RIGG MISSING

659862 AC1 HUMPHRIES W.F./MECH MISSING

AUS/4002122 SGT POTT J.E. (RAAF) W OF/AG MISSING

PHN 79

FOLLOWING PASSENGERS ALSO MISSING

ONE OFFICER AND 11 OTHER RANKS OF ARMY PARTICULARS OF WHOM HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO GHQA BOMBAY

(G) NOT KNOWN FAILED TO RETURN BASE FROM OPERATION

(K) F/SGT WEST MOTHER MRS R.M. SCOLLER

28 FAIRVIEW AVENUE PLYMOUTH

SGT MARTINE FATHER MR H.E. MARTIN 23 BEECHCROFT MANSIONS HOPTON ROAD LONDON S.W. 16

SGT HEARD WIFE MRS. J. HEARD RADFORD-SEMELE LEAMINGTON SPA

LAC GOWING FATHER MR C.R. GOWING 13 ROUND ROAD EARLHAM ESTATE NORWICH

AC1 HUMPHRIES MOTHER MRS. D. HUMPHRIES 22 MILLMAN ROAD WALTON LIVERPOOL

Leaswell

0730

No

PH 9/12 030

ACTION COPY

R.A.A.F. Form A.14.
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(December, 1937)



SECRET

CYPHER MESSAGE

This message must not be referred
to in any but cypher messages.

Serial No. _____

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TO	Receipt	Despatch
	Time of	
FROM	System	

D.3903/141.—C.237.

-2-

(F) KINNOT SGT POTT (RAAF) MOTHER MRS E.G. POTT
 (194?) GRAHAM STREET
 PORT MELBOURNE
 VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

REQUEST THIRD ADDRESSEE INFORM KINNOT

(C) NIGHT OF 16/17 NOV.
 (L) 5847

IMPORTANT.

THIS SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED CUM TCM
 10272/20/11
 PENDING RECEIPT OF CORRECTION

Leamath

NO
 0730
 DA F/10
 D50

ACTION COPY

Encl. 3a

163/152/141

R.A.A.F. Form A.14.
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(December, 1937)

IMPORTANT.



CYPHER MESSAGE



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Serial No.

~~This message must be circulated under cover and must be locked up when not in use. It must not be placed on any but a secret file, and all drafts or copies of original outgoing messages which may have been retained by the originator must be burnt on receipt of this copy. This message must not be referred to in clear or code messages or in any non-secret correspondence.~~

TO	RECORDS GLOS REPEAT AIR MINISTRY KINGSWAY AIR BOARD MELBOURNE	T O O 1822/Z/21	
		Receipt	Despatch
		Time of 1021/Z/22	
FROM	HQ. R.A.F. M.E. (B.P.O.)	System	W/T.

D.3068/141.—C.297.

M.587 21/11.

YOUR C7/733 20/11 AND MY M518 19/11 OFFICIAL NUMBER SGT. POTT
AOS/400122 REPEAT AUS/400122 (.)

IMPORTANT.

Leaswell

Encl. 2a

Serial No. 94/1179

312 932

DIRECTORATE OF PERSONAL SERVICES : CASUALTY SECTION.

RECORD OF PARTICULARS OBTAINED FROM O.I.C. RECORDS P.P.25 IN REFERENCE TO THE UNDERMENTIONED AIRMAN.

NO. 400122 RANK. Sgt NAME. POTT John Henry
 UNIT. R.A.A.F. at RAZ RELIGION. CPE
 MUSTERING. W/O. A. Ginner ENLISTED. ^{Albuquerque} ELIGIBLE FOR SCROLL DATE ENLISTED. 27.5.40
 NEXT OF KIN. (~~Specious~~) NAME. MR. F. S. POTT entered 12.41
 AGE. 7.6.1920. NOW BROTHER ADDRESS. 3 AUSTIN ST
 BENTLEIGH
 Victoria Vic

MARRIED. SINGLE. Yes. NO. OF DEPENDANTS.

NATURE OF CASUALTY. Missing in operations.
 missing believed killed (Enc 10a)
 Death presumed D.O.F. 17.11.41 (sic) 3/0.
 PLACE. Middle East DATE. 11/11/41

SIGNED. R.P. Smith
 21/11/1941

REPATRIATION ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

.....

SIGNED. / / 194

(PD119/41)

163/152/141

Encl. 1-a

R.A.A.F. Form A.14.
(R.A.F. Form 683)
(December, 1937)

ACTION COPY

SECRET

CYPHER MESSAGE



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Serial No. _____

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TO	AIR MINISTRY KINGSWAY RECORDS GLOS.	T.O.O. 1802.Z/19
	AIR BOARD MELBNE., (R) BAO MELWAN	Receipt Despatch
		Time of 1037.Z/20
FROM	H.Q. R.A.F. MIDDLE EAST (BPO)	System W/Tt..

D. 8008/1.41.—C.247.

M.518 19/11 F.B. (.)
 (B) 216 SQDN. (D) 565667 F/SGT WEST C E PILOT WEM MISSING 740668
 SGT MARTIN D S PILOT MISSING 751885 SGT HEARD R P AIR OBS MISSING
 546430 LAC GOWING R W F/RIGG MISSING 649662 AC1 HUMPHRIES W F/MECH
 MISSING AUS/4002122 SGT POTT J E (RAAF) W OP/AG MISSING FOLLOWING
 PASSENGERS ALSO MISSING (.) *no record*

THIS SECTION OF SIGNAL RECEIVED CORRUPT . CHECK AND REPEAT REQUESTED.

23 BEECHCROFT MANSIONS HOPTON ROAD LONDON S W 16 SGT HEARD WIFE MRS.
 J HEARD RADFORD-SEMELE LEAMINGTON SPA LAC GOWING FATHER MR C R GOWING
 13 ROUND ROAD EARLHAM ESTATE NORWICH AC1 HUMPHRIES MOTHER MRS D HUMPHRIE
 22 MILLMAN ROAD WALTON LIVERPOOL (F) KINNOT SGT POTT (RAAF) MOTHER MRS.
 F G POTT (194 ?) GRAHAM STREET PORT MELBOURNE VICTORIA AUSTRALIA .
 REQUEST THIRD ADDRESSEE INFORM KINNOT (?) NIGHT OF 16/17 NOVEMBER

I M P O R T A N T . . .

Words shown in brackets represent corrupt groups with probable interpretation.
If a check of the message is required please notify the Cypher Office Victoria Barracks.

Casuals

1 Referred to for action or information.	2 Minute or enclosure for attention.	3 Date on which file is passed out of Branch.	4 Initials. (See In- struction No. 12.)	Referre acti inform
CS (OPS)	5A	25/11/41	gma	
① Off/blk AMR 8A		28/11	Oh	
② Secretary 8A		1/12	WJ	
③ Despatch 8A				
④ D.P.S. (Car)		4/12/41	gma	
Off/blk AMR 14A		1/11/41	Oh	
Secretary 14A		2/1/42	WJ	
Despatch 14A			WJ	
D.P.S. (Car)		6/1/42	gma	
Off/blk AMR 16A		2/11	Oh	
Secretary 16A		2/11	WJ	
Despatch 16A			WJ	
D.P.S. (Car)		24/1/42	gma	
Off/blk AMR 23A		4/11	Oh	
Secretary		4/11	WJ	
Despatch		2/1/42	WJ	
D.P.S. (Car)		4/1/42	gma	
Off/blk AMR 33a		17/5/42	Oh	
Secretary 33a				
Despatch 33a		18/5/42	WJ	
D.P.S. (Car)		18/5	Oh	

1 Referred to for action or information.	2 Minute or enclosure for attention.	3 Date on which file is passed out of Branch.	4 Initials. (See In- struction No. 12.)
Fin Pitts	45a	25/8.	WT
C. Clark AMP	58a	5/1/43	OP
Despatch	58a	5/1	BT
N.P.O. / Cas. Sec.	159a	9/1/45	810
D.W. G. S.	149		mo
R. G. N.	60a	3/1	P.S.
W. G. S.	60a	6/2	T.D.
P.M.		3/9/46	R.
W. Baird		28/11/46	M.S.P.
R. A.		4/2/47	M.S.P.