

LETTERS

All letters must bear the names of the writers for publication. Pen-names are not acceptable. Letters should not exceed 150 words; if longer they may be abridged at the Editor's discretion.

MISSING PADRE

Sir: I am writing to solicit your help through the medium of your valuable paper in regard to my husband, Rev Leonard Kentish, Methodist missionary, late of Goulburn Is, Northern Territory, who was taken prisoner on January 22, 1943, by the Japanese. The facts as I know them are:

Mr Kentish, who was chairman of his district, left his home at Goulburn Is, 250 miles north-east of Darwin, to make an itinerary of his circuit, per your naval patrol boat. When somewhere in the vicinity of Wessell Is, a Japanese seaplane bombed the boat, which sank immediately. After again bombing the struggling men in the water, they machine-gunned them for half-an-hour. Later the pilot came down on the water and took one prisoner, my husband, the only padre on board among 18 naval men. The last the men saw of my husband was when the pilot gave him a drink from a flask as the plane took off in a northerly direction. Since that time no news has reached us of him.

Should any of your readers have either seen or heard of Mr Kentish I would appreciate very much if they would get in touch with me. He was 6 feet tall, had dark eyes and hair, and was hard of hearing. I believe an article concerning this tragedy appeared in your paper somewhere about the beginning of February, 1943.—

-VIOLET M. KENTISH (76)
Jephson st, Toowong, Brisbane).