

TELEPHONE:
MXY 550
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"NAVY, MELBOURNE"



IN REPLY
QUOTE

No. 432/219/2556

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

32418

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY OFFICE, MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

APR 17 1946

Dear Sir,


It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that your son, Engine Room Artificer 4th Class William R. Moffitt, O.N. 24501, who was reported missing on 22nd January, must now be presumed dead.

Your son's ship was bombed and sunk off the north west coast of Arnhem Land on 22nd January, and, although he survived the action, I regret that he failed to reach the shore.

It is believed that he was affected by the bomb blast, but he got aboard the ship's raft and later swam about 100 yards to some hatches, thinking that the raft would be a target for machine-gunning. All other survivors gathered together on the raft, except one other rating who remained with your son on a hatch close by. They remained in close proximity to the raft during the afternoon, and when last seen at dark were still only some 200 yards distant. The raft reached a small rocky islet early the following morning, but the other two were not seen again.

The Naval Board regret the loss of your son, and they would again express to you their sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,


(A. R. Nankervis),
Secretary.

Mr. J.H. Moffitt,
Yallourn Road,
MOE EAST.
Via Yallourn.