

11 Central Avenue
Avonhoe W21
Melbourne.

Dear Mr Mc Nab,

No doubt you have had official notification of your son's death. But I will realize how meagre these army Communiqués are, so I thought I would send you this message to assure you that everything we could possibly do to carry out the last rites reverently and sincerely was done.

First I should introduce myself. I was the senior officer at the camp at which your son died, and lacking a chaplain the duties of minister naturally fell to me.

On the 19th of January 1945 Lance Corporal J. C. Mc Nab died as a result of chronic Bacilli Dysentery and malnutrition; in spite of ~~the~~ his magnificent high morale and will to live, and in spite of the unfortunately meagre service which our doctor was able to give him. It was an offence against the Japanese for our doctor to treat the sick; but you can rest assured that the

every attempt was done, with the small supply of medicines at our disposal, to save your son's life.

The body was cremated at Sendryu, Japan on the 20th January.

As the cortege passed from the camp all the men who were able formed a guard of honour, and as the casket passed between the ranks, the whole camp came to attention and saluted.

At the crematorium, the Burial Service as written in the Prayer Book of the Church of England was read. Then each of the four bearers, who were selected from your sons closest friends stepped forward with me to pay our last personal respects in the form of a salute.

The remains were afterwards kept in a small wooden box in my room and when peace came were moved to a small tomb on a very beautiful spot overlooking the camp.

The location of this tomb has been notified to the Australian authorities and also the British Army authorities, and a few days ago

I received a telephone message from the American Army Headquarters stating that their Army of Occupation units are at present searching for the tomb.

In closing I wish to apologise for the delay in writing to you but my personal records containing your address were only returned to me yesterday.

Please accept my very deep sympathy and condolence in your loss of your son.

The Golden Rule of prison life was "Courage, cheerfulness and the will to live" Your son kept faithfully to that motto until the very end.

Yours most Sincerely

James Sutherland
Flight Lieutenant

Royal Australian Air Force