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2 N.Z.E.F. (Japan)
N.Z.A.P.C. 822
H.C.O.F.

3rd June, 1947.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Tindall,

By this time the sad news will have reached you of the passing of your son Jack who was a member of the unit under my command.

As his Commanding Officer I came into contact with Jack continuously and had the highest regard for his sterling qualities. He was always conscientious and during the period of his service with this unit never at any time got into ~~any sort of~~ trouble.

His duties during the greater part of his service with this unit consisted of supervising the incineration of the Camp rubbish and, during the past six weeks the chlorination of a swimming bath at Yamaguchi stadium which has been taken over by the army. He was happy in the performance of these duties and had more than once declined when I offered to give him a change of duties. He was a non-swimmer but was very keen to learn swimming and had formed the habit of getting into the bath and practising with the aid of a piece of board. Although I considered such initiative to be praiseworthy I had advised him to confine his practising to such times as there were other soldiers present no pointed out that there is always danger even to the strongest swimmer, when bathing alone.

On Saturday the 31st of May, Jack left the unit lines at approximately nine o'clock in the morning, to carry out his normal daily duties. He appeared to be perfectly happy and free from any premonition of danger. Shortly after ten o'clock on the same morning I was at the Officers Mess when a call came through from the swimming bath stating that a New Zealand soldier had been drowned. A Medical Officer and a Medical orderly were immediately rushed to the scene but although every effort was made to save him by artificial respiration, straining and coramine injections and administering of oxygen, they were unavailing. He was buried at the Military cemetery in Chofu after a service in the Kiva Hospital Chapel with full Military Honours. A personal message regretting his inability to attend was sent by the Commander Brigadier Potter. Later, the Casket will be transferred to the Okyama Allied Military Cemetery which is in most beautiful surroundings. As soon as possible I will make every endeavour to obtain for you photo's of both his grave and the Cemetery.

Every member of this Unit and a number of his friends from 6 N.Z. General Hospital attended his funeral. On my own behalf and also on behalf of the members of my unit, I wish to extend to you our deepest sympathy and assure you, that we all feel Jack's loss very very deeply. He who knew him and both like and respected him, realise how severe