

M.M.

3/4/45.

Enc.18A.

APR -7 1945

160864

Casualty Section,  
391 Lit.Collins St,

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ MU.9981.

RAAF. 166/43/615(18A)

Dear Madam,

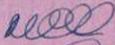
It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that the death of your son, Flight Lieutenant Donald William Wickes, has now been presumed for official purposes to have occurred on the 15th April, 1944.

The Minister for Air and members of the Air Board desire me to extend to you their profound sympathy. It is hoped that the accompanying enclosures will contain information of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

Enc.4.

Mrs. N.L. Wickes,  
Glenrowan Avenue,  
GLEN OSMOND. S.A.

  
(M.C. Langelow)  
SECRETARY.

*E. Selves %*  
D.P.S. P.6 (N.1)

5.4.45.

AP

30/1/45.

ENCL. (12A)

FEB -1 1945

140459

XXXXXXXXXXXXX MU.9984.

Casualty section,  
391 Little Collins St

RAAF.166/43/615(12a)

Dear Sir,

I deeply regret to inform you that all efforts to trace your son, Flight Lieutenant Donald William Wickes, have proved unavailing, and it is feared that all hope of finding him alive must be abandoned.

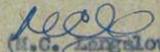
It has now become necessary to consider the question whether in these circumstances an official presumption of your son's death should be made.

In order that the full facts may be placed before the Air Ministry for its decision in the matter, it is requested that you advise this Department in writing that you have received no further news of your son since the date when he became missing, if such is the case.

In the event of your son's death being presumed you will be notified by letter and his name will subsequently be published on the casualty list in the press.

I desire to extend to you the constant sympathy of this Department.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Longslow)  
SECRETARY.

Mr. A. G. Wickes,  
Glen-Rowan Avenue,  
GLENE ORMOND. S.A.

*Mr. King*  
D. P. S. CASUALTY SECTION

1/2

*W/W.*

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

E.415011

From: Officer Commanding, No. 114 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

To: S.P.S.O., D.P.O., M.A.A.F. (Base) R.M.A.F.  
Copy to R.O., M.A.A.F. (Base) R.M.A.F.  
Base M.O., D.M.F.

Date: 17th April, 1944. *Reaction W 2306.*

Ref: 114/2.103/2/9.1.

Pilot: *W/L. Wickes, D.F. (A.107276) Missing from*  
Navigator: *W/L. Bunker, R.M. (A.107287) Operations*  
W/O(Air) (C): *W/L. James, A.P. (A.107288) Flight 15. A. 44.*  
Air Gunner: *120200 Sgt Paulson, (S.J.W.)*

W/L. Wickes and crew were briefed for a shipping reconnaissance on the night of 15/16th April, the area to be covered extended along the West Italy coast from CIVITAVECCHIA to FIANIZZO to include the harbours and five miles out to sea.

- The crews were timed to take off in pairs and this crew was co-operating with an experienced crew as, though on their second tour, they had not had much night work before.
- Ports were to be illuminated by flares and no attack except at sea was to be made below 5,000'. If no shipping were seen then the railway bridges at Ref. E.627677 or A.0119 were to be attacked on the way back.
- All crews were briefed to use an alternative landing ground in CORNIDA if in trouble at the Northern end of their route in preference to returning to the two alternatives in the MALTA area. Pan Gooseberry No. 6 also briefed.
- The crew took off at 21.00 hours in Boston aircraft N. 8306, a normal take off being made, weather was reported as fine over the whole route with visibility between 6 and 8 miles. Some low cloud was encountered with tops at 3,000' which was 4/10 at CORNIDA but increased northwards to 5/10 at FIANIZZO.
- Heavy opposition was reported to be slight, mainly confined to shooting at the flares dropped with light ack ack guns. *Claw*
- It is clear from the report of the other crew (W/Lt Bunker) who was working with W/L. Wickes when they were in the area of CIVITAVECCHIA and later at CORNIDA that they were in the area of FIANIZZO.

109361 continued .....

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
ADDITIONAL TABULATION  
2

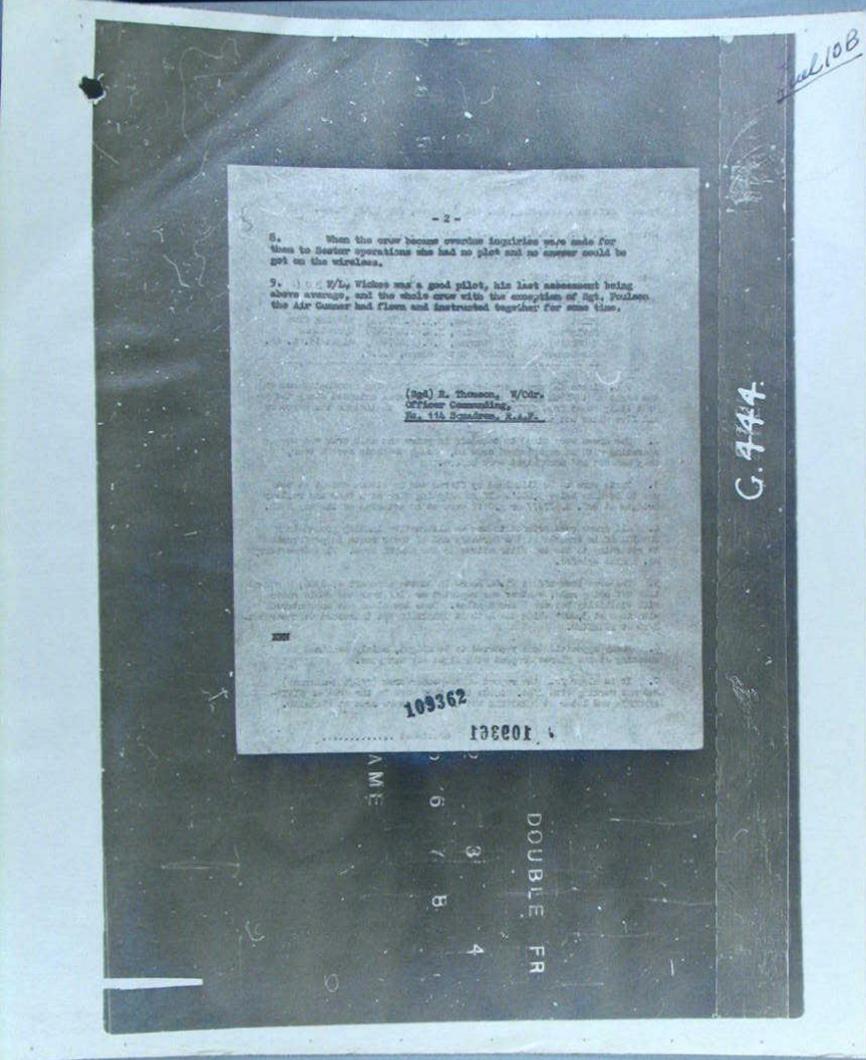
NAME  
1  
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DOUBLE FEED

G. 944

*Reaction W 2306*

*Reaction W 2306*

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



COPY.

61512 W/Cdr. Thomson.

No. 114 Squadron, R.A.F.  
C.M.F.

17th April, 1944.

Mr. Wickes.

Some time before you read this, you will have been informed by Air Ministry of the grievous loss of your son P/L Wickes who was missing from operations on the night of the 15th.

I have had no news which throws any light whatsoever on what happened to him and his crew, but should I do so I shall immediately write to you again.

Your son had not been with us long but was most popular on the Unit and much admired for the way in which he was tackling this night work which was new to him, the more so because he had come so far from home to take his part in this struggle.

As his Commanding Officer and on behalf of all his friends here I wish to express to you the deep sympathy which we feel with you in your very sad loss.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald Thomson.

*Forwarded on 29/5*

*Reid left*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

LETTERGRAM:  
MR. A.C. WICKES  
GLENROWAN AVENUE,  
GLEN OSMOND, S.AUS.

*Enc 6A*

INFORMATION RECEIVED CONCERNING YOUR SON FLIGHT LIEUTENANT DONALD  
WILLIAM WICKES ADVISES HIS AIRCRAFT WAS DETAILED TO CARRY OUT  
RECONNAISSANCE OF SHIPPING BETWEEN CIVITAVECCHIA AND ~~ROMBINO~~  
ON THE WEST COAST OF ITALY STOP REGRET NO FURTHER NEWS

26/4/44

AIRFORCE ANDERSON STREET SOUTH YARRA

*VNT*

*llh 40/0*  
*2601412*

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

*Enc 3A*

Postal acknowledgment delivery  
PERSONAL MR. A.C. WICKES  
OLEN BOWEN AVE.  
OLEN OSBOND. S. AUS

407476 FLIGHT LIEUTENANT D.W. WICKES MISSING STOP REGRET TO INFORM YOU  
THAT YOUR SON FLIGHT LIEUTENANT DONALD WILLIAM WICKES IS MISSING AS  
RESULT AIR OPERATIONS ON 15th APRIL 1944 STOP KNOWN DETAILS ARE HE  
WAS PILOT OF BOSTON AIRCRAFT DETAI LED FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY  
WHICH FAILED TO RETURN TO BASE STOP THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL  
AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION STOP THE MINISTER FOR AIR JOINS WITH AIR BOARD  
IN EXPRESSING SINCERE SYMPATHY IN YOUR ANXIETY STOP WHEN ANY FURTHER  
INFORMATION IS RECEIVED IT WILL BE CONVEYED TO YOU IMMEDIATELY

29/4/44

Air Force.  
Anderson St. South Yarra.

*106/56 20043572*

CASUALTY NOTIFICATION

*Donc 2A*

FINANCE SERIAL NO. *999 7725*

NATURE OF CASUALTY *Missing - air operations*

*16/3/45* SIGNAL FROM ~~0 110~~ *ARRIVING DEATH PRESUMED w.o.f.* *15/4/44*

PLACE OF CASUALTY ~~(MEDITERRANEAN AREA)~~ UNKNOWN DATE OF CASUALTY *15/4/44*

CASUALTY SIGNAL ADVISES NAME ~~Mr. A. G. Wickes~~ *MRS. N. L. WICKES*

NEXT OF KIN ~~Father~~ *MOTHER.* ADDRESS ~~Glen Rowan Ave. Glenrowan Ave.~~

~~Glen Osmond, S.A.~~

CASUALTY SIGNAL ADVISES RANK AS

*F/Lt*

RECORD OF PARTICULARS OBTAINED FROM RECORDS IN REFERENCE TO THE UNDERMENTIONED MEMBER

NO. *407476* RANK *F/Lt 3/6/45* NAME *WICKES, Donald William*

UNIT *RAAF att RAF 444* RELIGION *Baptist*

USTERING *GD* ENLISTED *5 RC* DATE ENLISTED *12.10.40*

DATE OF BIRTH *29.2.1914* DATE EMBARKED *27.6.41*

NEXT OF KIN *Father* NAME *Mr. Alfred G. Wickes*

*c/o G.M. Thorpe*

MARRIED *SINGLE Yes* *Glen Rowan Ave.*

ALSO INFORM P.T.B.I. *Ridge Park, S.A.*

ELIGIBLE FOR P.O.M.

*Mrs. Luella R. Wickes*

*70 Partridge Street*

~~*Tasmania S.A. (ENC. 00A)*~~

*GLENROWAN AVENUE*

*RIDGE PARK, ADELAIDE, S.A.*

*20 APR 1944*

EXTRACT taken by *B. W. Scott. Cpl*

FROM *D/Post ACW Pugh*

*19/4 / 1944.*

*VA*

*(CD31/44).*

RECORDED FOR STATISTICAL TABULATION  
On P/P. 118 Serial No. *11980* Initials

*1945 rev s/o*

for Wing Commander,  
D.P.S. CASUALTY SECTION.

RECORDED ON CASUALTY INDEX  
BY *J.R. (cop) 20/4/44.*

*Checked rank with*  
*D/Post (ACW Nichol)*

*29/3/45*

*Jedon*  
*Che*

# Donald William Wickes

Remembered with Honour

Malta Memorial

In Memory of

Flight Lieutenant

407476, Royal Australian Air Force who died on 15 April 1944 Age 30

Son of Aldred Charles and Novello Louise Wickes, of Parkside, South Australia.