

VALE.

PRIVATE WILLIAM GORDON BUDGE A.I.F.

During last week Mr. and Mrs. W. Budge, of Morwell, received the sad news, from the Australian Military Forces, that their son, William Gordon, is believed to have died of illness (cause unknown) while a prisoner-of-war in Thailand in 1943 (date not known).

PPRIVATE BUDGE, who was born in this district 24 years ago, enlisted in the A.I.F. when 19 years of age. After only a few weeks of training, he was sent to the Middle East, and with other Australians, took part in the capture of Beirut. Returning to Australia after war with Japan started, his unit was switched over to Java, and he was taken prisoner a few hours after arrival. It will be remembered that only a few troops landed on the island, other ships that were to have landed troops there were turned back.

Prior to joining the A.I.F., Gordon was on the staff of the Morwell "Advertiser", and was considered an employee of promise. He was conscientious, trustworthy and reliable, and gave strong indications that he would go a long way in the newspaper world. He was the type that took a great interest in whatever he understood and always put his best into it.

As a playing member of the Morwell Brass Band, he was a great acquisition, being an accomplished player of many instruments. He dearly loved a game of cricket, and was a regular playing member of the Morwell Cricket Club.

The last letter Mr. and Mrs. Budge received from their son was over two years ago, when he stated that he was being forced to work for the Japanese in Burma.

We join with many others in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Budge and family.