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# TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From



No. 49 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Fiskerton. Lincoln.

3rd January, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Betts.

I am sorry to have to confirm my telegram informing you that your brother is reported missing as a result of air operations last night, and I want to convey to you the sympathy of all members of this Squadron and myself in your anxiety while waiting for news.

Your brother was flying as Flight Engineer in an aircraft which set out to attack a target at Berlin, and since then we have heard nothing from it, wireless silence being maintained on operational missions. In these circumstances he is reported missing but I hope that later we shall have news that he is safe, though this will probably mean he is a prisoner of war. His captain was an excellent pilot in whom I had every confidence, and I know he would do everything possible for the safety of his crew. You will be informed by Air Ministry immediately any information is received.

In the short time the crew had been here they have

shown themselves, in their own particular sphere, to be most efficient and they were well liked for the cheerful way they accepted and carried out any task allotted to them. I had hoped they would complete a successful tour, and I am extremely sorry

to lose them in this way.

Your brother's kit has been collected and safeguarded and will be forwarded in due course through the R.A.F. Central Depository, Colmbrook, Slough, Bucks.

If there is any way I can help you by advice or information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely.

Wing Commander, Commanding

No.

49 Squadron.

Mrs. W.M. Betts, Belton. Uppingham, Rutland.

Gerrard 9234.

P.412304/2/P.4.A.2.

(Casualty Branch),

77, Oxford Street,

London, W.1.

January, 1944.

Madam,

I am commanded by the Air Council to express to you their great regret on learning that your son, Sergeant Philip Otley Camm, Royal Air Force, is missing as the result of air operations on the night of 2nd/3rd January, 1944, when a Lancaster aircraft in which he was flying as flight engineer set out to bomb Berlin and was not heard from again.

This does not necessarily mean that he is killed or wounded, and if he is a prisoner of war he should be able to communicate with you in due course. Meanwhile enquiries are being made through the International Red Cross Committee, and as soon as any definite news is received you will be at once informed.

If any information regarding your son is received by you from any source you are requested to be kind enough to communicate it immediately to the Air Ministry.

The Air Council desire me to convey to you their sympathy in your present anxiety.

I am, Madam, Your obedient Servant,

Mailes Evans.

Mrs A.E. Camm,
Belton,
Uppingham, Rutland.

Royal Air Force Base,

Scampton.

Lincoln.

13th January, 1944.

Ref. 52B/CA.1291/44.

Dear Mrs. Betts,

As the officer detailed to supervise the collection of your brother's belongings, may I be permitted to offer you my deepest sympathy during this time of anxiety.

In order to ensure the safeguarding of your brother's belongings, they have been carefully checked and packed, and are being forwarded to the Central Depository, R.A.F. Colnbrook, Slough, Bucks., where they will be held for some little time prior to their release by Air Ministry on the completion of the necessary formalities. All communications with regard to the effects should now be address. ed to the Central Depository.

Your brother's bicycle is being held at this station, and I should be glad to have your disposal instructions as soon as possible

If there are any other matters on which I can be of assistance to you, do please let me know.

Yours faithfully,

C.J. Dechnicoge Plo

Scrair Commodore, Commanding,
R.A.F. Base, Scampton.

Mrs W.M. Betts. Belton. Uppingham. Rutland.



Reference:-401/285/P1. No. 49 Squadron,
Royal Air Force,
Fiskerton,
Lincoln.

18th. January, 1944.

Dear Mr. Camm,

Your letter of 13th. January, 1944, addressed to Wing Commander Adams, has been passed to me for attention.

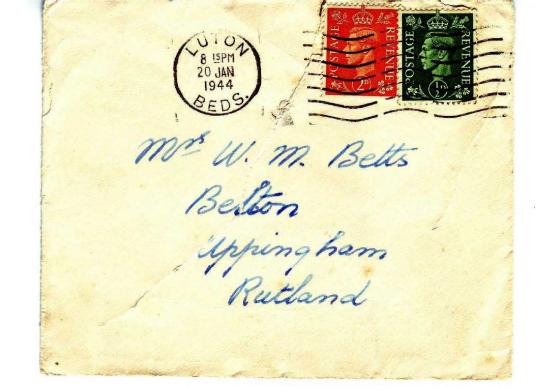
with regard to your enquiry about your son's effects, I am pleased to be able to tell you that both his cycle and fishing rod have been surrendered to R.A.F. Base, Scampton, for safe custody and will be forwarded when authority is given by Air Ministry for their release.

So far, I regret to say, we have had no news of your son or his crew but you will be notified by Air Ministry immediately any information is reserved.

Yours sincerely,

Flight fieutenant, Adjutant, No. 49 Squadron.

Mr. A.C. Camm,
'Littlewood,'
East Drive,
Virginia Water,
SURREY.



The Cottage 12 Burr Street Dunstable Beds 20-1-44 Dear mr Betts Will you allow me on behalf of my wife and self tender to you our deepest sympathy during this time of anxiety. our son (76/St Palmer) was the pilot of the Plane of which your brother was a member, they were all greatpals together and we with you hope and pray that we shall neceive news to say that they are all safe even though it means being Presoners of War. I you receive any information would you kindly let us know and we will do the same. Yours dencerely mrg mr C. S. Palmer

### FX.43646. Personal Affects of No. 54768 SCT. CAMM P.O.

- 1. Damahed suitcase containing
- 2. Razors
- 1. Shaving brush
- 1. Pair shoe trees.
- 1. Shoe horn.
- 2. Torches.
- 1. Comb.
- 1. Hairbrush.
- 1. Brevet.
- 1. Pipe.
- 1. Pair swim trunks.
- 1.2. Pairs pyjamas,
- 1. Books:
- 1. Cycle pump.
- 4. Handkerchieves.
- 1. Wallet with papers, Correspondence, photos.

- 1. Address book.
- 1. 3 MINHEXMANX speed gear.
- 1. Fishing reel.
- 1. Pair black shoes.
- 1. Conway Stewart odd top fountain pen
- 1. Empty wallet
- 1. Wallet with papers,
- 1. Stud.
- 1. Fishing red.
- 1. Pr. coloured shorts.

1. Cycle retained at Unit pending disposal instructions.

Telephone No:-COLNBROOK 231/232/233.

In reply please quote reference:CD/ FX43646

Central Depository, Royal Att Force, Colmbrook, Slough, Bucks.

9th February 1944

544768 Sgt. Camm P.O

Dear Madam,

The personal effects of the above named as listed on the attached inventory, have been received from the Unit, and are held at the Central Depository in safe custody.

Should you desire these effects to be sent to you and will kindly return to this office, duly signed and witnessed, the enclosed form of indemnity, arrangements will be made accordingly. A prepaid addressed label is enclosed for your reply.

May I be permitted to express my sympathy with you in this period of enxiety.

1/2/2/1//-

Squadron Leader, Commanding, R.A.F. Central Depository.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. W.M. Betts, Belton, Uppingham, Rutland. Telephone No:-Colnbrook 231/232/233.

In reply please quote reference:-CD/FX 43646 Central Depository, Royal Air Force, Colnbrook, Slough, Bucks.

14- Franch 1944

# 544768. Sgt. Camm. P. O.

Dear Sin

I thank you for returning the Form of Indomnity duly signed and would inform you that the effects of the above named will be forwarded to you as seen as possible.

I will, of course, advise you of the actual date of despatch.

Leterthos

Equadron Leader, Commanding, R.A.F. Contral Depository.

a. E. Camm Esq.,
Littlewood,
East Drine,
Wiginia Wate

GERRARD 9234

TELEPHONE:

Extn

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to :-

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

and the following number quoted :-

Your Ref. P.412304/2/P.4. (B.6)



#### AIR MINISTRY

(Casualty Branch),

73-77, OXFORD STREET,

Madam.

I am directed to inform you, with deep regret, that all efforts to trace your son, 544768 Sergeant P. O. Camm, have proved unavailing.

In view of the absence of news for so long a period, it is felt that you should be informed of this Department's grave anxiety for his safety, but action to presume that he has lost his life will not be taken until evidence of his death is received, or until such time has elapsed that it is considered there can be no longer any likelihood of his survival.

Such action will then be for official purposes only and will not be taken until this Department has communicated with you further.

I am to assure you that all possible enquiries are continuing.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

for Director of Personal Services.

Mrs. A. E. Camm. Belton, Uppingham, Rutland.



In any communication on the subject of following number should be quoted:-

AIR MINISTRY. ACCOUNTS 7K. Cas., WHITTINGTON ROAD, WORCESTER.

this letter, the 7K. Cas. 544768 Sir/Madam, Airman's No. 544768 Name Camue P.O. With reference to this Department's letter dated the 22-1-44, I am to request that you will be good enough to return your allowance book(s) to this Department in the enclosed envelope immediately after you have cashed the order(s) due for payment on the I am. Sir/Madam. Your obedient Servant. for Director of Accounts.

Goly

#### AIR MINISTRY,

Accounts 13 (W.G.),

Ref. No. FF 3/6/70/44

WHITTINGTON ROAD, WORCESTER.

San - 1946

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to inform you that a War Gratuity of £36: 8: - is payable in respect of the service of the late

Sgt. P.O. Gamm

The above sum is due to the beneficiaries of the estate as follows:—

Mr. A. E. Barren & 18-4-0 Mrs. 7. M. Barrin & 18-4-0

A remittance in your favour is enclosed for distribution accordingly.

I am, Sir/Madam

Your obedient Servant,

for Director of Accounts.

ABBEY 3411

TELEPHONE:

Extn....

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—
THE UNDER SECRETARY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, AIR MINISTRY, and the following number

quoted: P.412304/44/S.14 Cas.B.2

Your Ref.....

AIR MINISTRY,

2, SEVILLE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

December, 1947

Madam,

I am directed to inform you that whilst the Department is reluctant to reopen a painful subject, it is considered you would wish to know that German documents recently translated have disclosed that members of your son's crew are laid to rest in the cemetery at Retzow, near Mirow, 12 miles south west of Neustrelitz, Germany. It is regretted, however, that no particulars are given as to the circumstances and location of the crash, nor is it stated whether individual identities were determined or the whole crew recovered and buried.

This information has been forwarded to the Royal Air Force Missing Research and Enquiry Service with the request that a thorough investigation be undertaken in the Retzow district as soon as circumstances permit; and you may be sure that when the report on this investigation is received a further communication will be sent to you at the earliest possible moment.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

Mrs. A.E. Camm,
Inttlewood,
East Drive,
Virginia Water,
Surrey.



TEL. : EDGWARE 2361 Extn

Correspondence on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
AIR MINISTRY S. 14 Cas.

and should quote the reference:-P. 412304/44/S. 14 Cas. A. 6.

Your ref.....



# AIR MINISTRY, LONDON ROAD, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX.

18 October, 1949.

Madam,

I am directed to inform you with regret that, due to circumstances outside British control, it has not been possible to visit and confirm the burial place of members of your son's crew, who were reported by the German Authorities to have been buried in the cemetery at Retpow, near Mirow, which is situated in the Russian occupied Zone of Germany.

Experience has shown that it is very unwise to accept German wartime information about any grave without verification, generally by exhumation, and it has been agreed, therefore, after consulting the Imperial War Graves Commission, that in all cases of this kind, where the grave is inaccessible, commemoration shall be made on the Royal Air Force Memorial to the Missing, which is to be erected on the banks of the Thames at Runnymede.

I am to assure you that, if at some future date the grave becomes accessible and is identified, it will be registered by the Imperial War Graves Commission and arrangements made for its permanent marking and maintenace. The fact that, in the meantime, your son's name has been commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, will in no way prejudice these arrangements for full war grave treatment.

Mrs. A.E. Camm, Kingstone, Belton.

Uppingham, Rutland. I am, Madam, Your obedient Servant,

balank





No. 19,323

# HITLER'S BERLIN CHANCELLERY HIT

Another 1,000-Ton Raid: Two Great Areas of Fires

## **BOMBERS BEAT OFF SWARMS OF FIGHTERS**

Mass Evacuation of Berlin Begins: 50 Trains a Day

A IRCRAFT of Bomber Command made another heavy attack on Berlin in the night, the Air Ministry announced this afternoon. A pilot, reconnoitring the city after the attack was over, reported that there were two large concentrations of fire.

Mosquitoes attacked objectives in Western Germany and in Northern France, and other aircraft laid mines in enemy waters. Twenty-eight of our aircraft are missing.