

From Reported Missing to Final Resting Place



This is the story of Sergeant A.H. Brown (Harry) from being posted as missing through to identification and burial, told via the medium of the various letters to my Mother from the RAF and the Red Cross.

Harry was rear gunner in Lancaster LL810 of 550 Squadron based at North Killinghome.

The aircraft was reported as Failed to Return from an operation on the 27th/28th May 1944.

David Brown (Son)



The crew of LL810 clockwise from the top:

Sergeant A H Brown, Air Gunner. RAF

Pilot Officer D McRae, Pilot. RCAF

Flying Officer M Shapiro, Navigator. RCAF

Sergeant A Hall, Wireless Operator. RAF

Sergeant A Bonner Air Gunner. RAF

Pilot Officer F Lebano, Air Bomber. RCAF

Sergeant R Drury, Flight Engineer. RAF

Charges to pay

s. d.

RECEIVED



No. 1278
OFFICE STAMP



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

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From W/L m

To

9x/T over Priority C.C.
Priority C.C. Mrs. Abbott 340 Ainsworth Rd.
Radcliffe, Manchester

Deeply regret to inform you that your husband
Sgt. Albert Henry Brown is missing as a result of
air operations. Operations on the night of 27/28
May 1944 better follows. Any further information

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form
at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and if possible, the envelope

B or C

Wt 20815 9/43 Orth. Sc.

will be immediately communicated to you
Pending receipt of official notification from
the air Ministry no information should
be given to the family
Airmen North
Kilburyholme

29th May 1944: The initial telegram

No. 550 Squadron,
R.A.F. Station,
North Killingholme,
Nr. Grimsby,
Lincolnshire.

28th May, 1944.

Dear *Mrs. A. Brown.*

I was deeply grieved to have to telegraph the news that your husband, Sgt. Albert Henry Brown is missing as a result of air operations over enemy territory on the night of 27/28th May. Not only myself but the whole Squadron sincerely hope that he has escaped uninjured, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my most profound sympathy to you in your great anxiety.

As you are probably aware, it often takes some time for news to be received of those who are captured as prisoners of war, but you may rest assured that as soon as any such information is forthcoming I will immediately communicate with you by telegram.

During Albert's three months with my Squadron he has taken part in twenty two operational flights against the enemy. His keenness and skill as an Air Gunner were an inspiration to all, and he has proved himself a worthy upholder of the great traditions of the Royal Air Force, and I know he will be greatly missed by his numerous friends.

It is desired to explain that the request contained in the telegram notifying you of the casualty to your husband was included with the object of avoiding his chance of escape being prejudiced by undue publicity in case he was still at large; this is not to say that any information about him is available, but is a precaution adopted in the case of all personnel reported missing.

The Station Effects Officer is handling all your husband's personal belongings which he will forward to the Central Committee of Adjustment, R.A.F. Colnbrook, Slough, Bucks., from whom you will receive a communication in due course.

Yours

Very sincerely
[Signature]
Wing Commander,
Commanding,
No. 550 Squadron.

Mrs. A. Brown,
340, Ainsworth Road,
Radcliffe,
Nr. Manchester, LANCs.

Letter from Commanding Officer 550 Squadron dated 28th May 1944.

This would have been Harry's 22nd operation.

The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

PATRON : H.M. THE KING.

PRESIDENT : H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

CHAIRMAN : THE RT. HON. LORD RIVERDALE, G.B.E.

Telephone No. : HOVE 3992.

All Communications to be addressed to the Secretary

EATON HOUSE.

14. EATON ROAD.

HOVE. SUSSEX.

8th June, 1944.

Our Reference MJ/AMS 209.

Mrs. A. H. Brown,
15 Brooks Avenue,
Radcliffe,
Lancs.

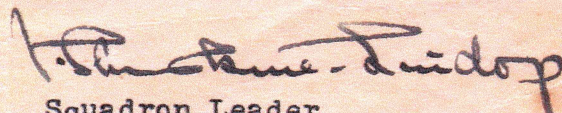
Dear Madam,

The Council of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund have learnt with much regret that your husband is reported missing, and I am asked to express their very sincere sympathy.

I am to inform you that you are entitled to continue cashing the orders in your Royal Air Force allowance book for a period, but if you do not receive a communication from the Air Ministry regarding your title to a temporary allowance within three weeks from the date of this letter, you should communicate direct with the Director of Accounts, Air Ministry, Accounts 7KCas., Whittington Road, Worcester.

Should you be in need of some financial assistance either now or at any time in the future, kindly let me know and I will arrange for our Representative to interview you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours truly,


Squadron Leader,
Joint Secretary.

8th June 1944:

Letter from the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund offering financial assistance to my Mother.