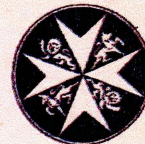


**WAR ORGANISATION  
OF THE  
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY and ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM**



*President:*  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

*Grand Prior:*  
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G.



**WOUNDED, MISSING AND RELATIVES DEPARTMENT**

*Chairman:* THE DOWAGER LADY AMPHILL, C.I., G.B.E.

Telephone No.  
SLOANE 9696

*In replying please quote reference:* S/LR. 7  
RAF/C.12878 **BELGRAVE SQUARE,  
LONDON, S.W.1**

Dear Mrs. Brown,

20th. January. 1945.

We very much regret to have to tell you that no information has come through attached to the name of your husband Sergeant A.H. Brown, No. 2209356 although full enquiries are being made on your behalf. We feel it is only right, however, that you should be informed of the grievous report which has reached us through the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva concerning the crew of which your husband was a member, for although the information which this contains can but add most deeply to your already great anxiety, we believe that you would not wish it to be withheld.

A telegram from the Organisation at Geneva reports that according to the official German authorities five airmen lost their lives on the 28th. May. 1944. The names of Warrant Officer. 2. F.G. Lebano and Flying Officer M. Shapiro were correctly given, and the Air Ministry has, therefore, posted these two airmen as 'Missing, believed Killed in Action'. At the time when this report was sent the names of the other three airmen whose lives are stated to have been lost had not then been ascertained by the enemy. Since the crew consisted of seven men you will understand that until further information is forthcoming the remaining five members, including your husband, must still be classified as 'Missing'.

We realise what this report will mean to you, and we wish you to know that every effort is being made in order to clarify this distressing situation.

cont'd.....

20th January 1945:

Letter from the Red Cross.

Clearly there was some confusion over a number of bodies discovered by the German forces. It would appear that crew members Lebano, Shapiro and three others have been found. Again no reference to the location is given.



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*Chairman :* THE DOWAGER LADY AMPHILL, C.I., G.B.E.

Telephone No.  
SLOANE 9696

*In replying please quote reference :*

FM/MP  
RAF/C.12878  
**7 BELGRAVE SQUARE,  
LONDON, S.W.1**

14th February, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Brown,

We have received a letter from the Air Ministry informing us that in our letter to you of 8th February concerning your husband, Sergeant A.H. Brown, No.2209356, it was stated that according to the official German authorities five airmen lost their lives on 28th May last.

We are so extremely sorry that the number was incorrectly quoted and do ask you to accept our sincere apologies for the additional anxiety this has caused you.

The information contained in the telegram from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva quoting the German authorities states that three airmen lost their lives - Warrant Officer 2.F.G. Lebano and Flying Officer M. Shapiro: the name of the third was not given.

Until further definite information is received no official action can be taken about the four remaining members of the crew.

P.T.O.

14th February 1945:

Letter from Red Cross.

This seems to confirm that three not five bodies have been found.



Telephone : Gerrard 9234

Extn .....

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

THE  
UNDER SECRETARY  
OF STATE,

and the following number  
quoted :— PA17743/4/PA.B4.

Your Ref. ....



AIR MINISTRY,  
(Casualty Branch),  
73-77, OXFORD STREET,  
W.I.

5 April, 1945.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to a letter from this Department dated 20th January 1945, concerning your husband, Sergeant Albert Henry Brown, Royal Air Force, and to inform you that a further report has now been received from the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, which states that Pilot Officer Lebano was buried in Grave No. 42 in the Parish Cemetery at Lichtervelde approximately six miles north north east of Roulers, Belgium, and Flying Officer Shapiro and the one unidentified member of the crew were buried in the Parish Cemetery at Wevelghem, approximately two and a half miles north east of Menin, Belgium, Flying Officer Shapiro in Grave No. 497.

It is regretted that it is still not possible to state precisely who is the one that was unidentified but it is considered that you would wish to be notified of this report.

In view of the lapse of time since your husband was reported missing, and the absence of any definite news concerning him, the Department regrets that it has now become necessary to take action to presume his death for official purposes. Before such action proceeds, however, I am to request you kindly to confirm that you have received no information that would indicate his survival.

/ I am

Mrs. A. H. Brown,  
340, Minworth Road,  
Raddcliffe,  
Leeds.



5th April 1945:

Letter from Air Ministry.

FG Lebano has been buried in the cemetery at Lichtervel, M Shapiro and one unidentified other at Wevelgem.

Other research has pointed at Lichtervel as being the place where the aircraft came down. It is beginning to look like the bodies were badly mangled/scattered.



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Telephone No.  
SLOANE 9696

*In replying please quote reference :*

**7 BELGRAVE SQUARE,  
LONDON, S.W.1**

*Dear Mr Brown*

September 1945.

I am sorry to tell you that the Section of our Department dealing with casualties which have occurred in the European theatre of war will be closed as from 1st October 1945.

We shall be exceedingly sorry to have to bring to an end that part of our work, but now that all territory is in Allied hands the Service Authorities are carrying out their own investigations, and the necessity therefore for enquiries to be made through the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva no longer exists. The Air Ministry already has in its possession all the information this Department has been able to obtain, and anything further that may come to light as a result of the investigations that are still being made by the Service Ministries, will be sent to the next-of-kin by the Royal Air Force Authorities. If you should wish to make any enquiries, please write to:- The Air Ministry, P.4.Casualty Branch, 73-77 Oxford Street, London, W.1.

You know how much we have felt for you during this sad and anxious time, and we are deeply grieved that we have not been able to send you happier news.

Again with my deepest sympathy,

Yours sincerely,

*Napaula Amphill*

Chairman.

September 1945:

Letter from Red Cross.

Following the allied advance into Belgium and France any further investigations will be carried out by the Air Ministry.



Tel. No.  
SLOANE 3467 Ext.....

AIR MINISTRY,  
2, SEVILLE STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

P.417743/44/S.14.Cas.C.6.

29. January, 1948.

Dear Mrs. Brown,

I hesitate to refer again to the loss of your husband Sergeant A.H. Brown, but I feel sure you will wish to know the outcome of investigations undertaken by the Royal Air Force Missing Research and Enquiry Service in Belgium regarding his fate and that of his crew.

The grave in Wevelghem Communal Cemetery, where it was believed that one member of your husband's crew was buried as unknown, has recently been exhumed and it contained the remains of five airmen. Unfortunately, however, owing to the severity of the crash, it was not possible to identify them separately.

As the remaining two members of the crew have previously been identified and buried separately it is evident that the grave at Wevelghem is the last resting place of your husband and the four other members of the crew not accounted for.

This grave, which is now numbered 498, will therefore be registered collectively with the War Graves Authorities, and will be marked with a cross suitably inscribed with all their names.

I am sorry that, owing to the formidable task of our Search Teams on the Continent, it has not been possible to notify you earlier.

/I

Mrs. A.H. Brown,  
340, Ainsworth Road,  
Radcliffe,  
Lancs.

29<sup>th</sup> January 1948:

Letter from the Air Ministry.

Wevelgem grave previously said to have held one unidentified other has now been found to contain five others making six in total.

All are now accounted for; six in Wevelgem and one in Lichtervelt.