

No. 427 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

October, 9th., 1943.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Before receiving this letter you will have had a telegram informing you that your son, Sgt. Roland Thompson, has been reported missing, as the result of Air Operations.

It is with the deepest regret that I write to you this date, to convey to you the feelings of my entire Squadron.

On the night of October, 8th., Roland and his fellow crew members, took off from this aerodrome, to carry out a Night Bombing attack on Germany and were due to return the following morning. Unfortunately, the aircraft did not return from this operation, and we have had no communication from it, nor from any member of the crew, since time of take-off.

Although Roland had not been long a member of this Squadron he had already displayed great possibilities of becoming one of our most promising gunners, and we count his loss a distinct blow to the strength of this Squadron. Roland was popular with all ranks, and will be missed by all of us.

There is always the possibility that your son may be a prisoner-of-war, in which case, you will either hear from him direct, or through the Air Ministry, who will receive advice from the International Red Cross Society.

Roland's effects have been sent to the Royal Air Force Central Depository, where they will be held until better news is received, or in any event for a period of at least six months, before being forwarded on to you, through the usual channels.

May I now express the sincere sympathy of all the members of this Squadron who share with you the grievous anxiety you must be undergoing at this critical period of time, and I would also like to assure you how much we all honour the heroic sacrifice your son has made in the cause of Freedom, in the service of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

R. S. Turnbull
(R. S. Turnbull) Wing Commander,
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