

Letter 1

33 Squadron
R.A.F,
B.L.A.(?)
23/10/44

Dear Mr Roney,

Before you receive this letter you will have been notified by the air ministry that your son was reported missing on the sixth of this month. I hope you will forgive my not writing before but owing to communications being rather difficult at present, it is quite some time before we manage to find out any particulars and I have been postponing this letter in the hope that some news of your son would be forthcoming but unfortunately we have received none at this present time.

The squadron was detailed to bomb and strafe enemy positions and had successfully carried out the operation and was reforming when it was noticed that your son's machine was missing. The section leader called him on the R/T several times and when he received no answer went back to the area to look for him but unfortunately failed to find him.

George was one of the most promising airman pilots in the squadron, and would shortly have been recommended for a commission which I am confident he would have received and his presence among us is very much missed. The other pilots wish to join with me in offering you our deepest sympathy on your very great loss.

I hope that by the time you receive this letter we will have some more definite news but if in the meantime I can do anything more to help you please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours very sincerely
Ian Matthew
S/Ldr
OC 33 Squadron

Letter 2

NZ 42427 W/O Macdonald N.E.
33 Sqdn. B.L.A.
c/o NZ A.B.P.O.
London 17/11/44

Dear Mr Roney and family,

Naturally by this time you have had the news about your son George. I am writing this letter to try and give you some idea of what happened. George and I joined this squadron together, after many happy months together we always flew together and what we had we shared and in all we were almost brothers. I was flying in the same section as George 6 weeks ago today and after doing our job 3 of us broke one way and saw George break to the right. When we came to join up he wasn't there, and so we thought he had returned to base but no. I have waited all this time, just to get some more information will be a day or two yet. I won't endeavour to make the situation brighter or worse, because yourselves and we pilots here can only hope for the best.

I have written to the general manager of the P.O. Savings bank in London about George's bank book. £16.odd. and he advised me to send it to you and you can take the necessary action with it. I had to go through his kit and I took care to put his very personal kit in the right hands. Parcels and cigs he owned I gave to his groundcrew, to whom he was very attached.

Well Mr Roney I will write as soon and as often as possible and hope in a short time you should have more definite news. I have some rather good photos of George which I will send to you. Meanwhile we shall keep on hoping and I shall close with kindest regards to all at Reed St.

Yours sincerely,
Evan MacDonald

Letter 3_1948?

still no word from air force but they sent back Georges logbook
You could type this pencilled scrawl

To R Roney Dear Sir etc,

As commander of the civil defence of the ministry of Home Affairs of Holland I received a letter from the mayor of the village of Schoondyke, Province Zeeland, whereat he requested to dig up an English flying machine in which yet should be the pilot

Although I only have the charge to clear the south of our country of munitions which remained here after the war I regarded it as my duty to that young deliverer of our country who gave all that he had for us, to do my best to exhume him and give him a worthy resting place.

We found your brother George James and out of his paybook I read his and your name and address Further I found on his body his identity card some French money a drive licence a flute I gave order to look carefully for some personal article because I thought you should like to receive these, but we found only the named articles

As soon as I perceived that we should find your brother's body I let it be known to the mayor and I confided all the found articles to his charge.

We have buried your brother on the cemetery of Schoondyke and I and my men have decided to adopt your brother's grave

I am feeling myself very happy that I could do something for one of our deliverers and that is also the sentiment of my men

Also I am pleased that I could find out the name of your brother so that you and your family at present know the last resting place of your brother

I hope to receive from you or any member of your family a notice that my letter has been arrived

I beg you to give my salutations to your family

Yours faithfully

Clem Van Daelen

That letter to Ron was written in English by
Mr Clem Van Daelen
Afd CT Hulpverl. Dienst
Parade 5
Venlo, Holland

Letter 4 _1948?

Translation

Dear Family,

On 10 June 1948 the undersigned was appointed to survey the digging up of a spitfire which crashed round about 14th Oct 1944 near the municipality of Schoondyke, a village in the Netherlands, province of Zeeland, district Zeeuws -Vlaanderen

The main object of digging up the above plane however was to find the pilot because witnesses of this accident declared that they had not seen anybody jump from the plane.

After two days of hard work our labour was rewarded. Among the remains of the plane there were the remains of a human being After having dug up the pilot it could not have been anyone else. We could see from the paybook which we found on him the following name and particulars:

George James Roney Born -/-/-/ occupation of civil life motor mechanic Single

From other particulars I could gather that the above Roney came from N.Z.

Although all particulars regarding G.J.R. will be sent on by the local authorities of Schoondyke I myself also feel obliged to tell you of your son's death and to condole with you in your sad loss.

On June 12.1948 George was buried at Schoondyke I was there to.

Should there be anything you would like me to do for you I shall be only to pleased to help you.

The quarter master of the State police
(sqd) F Picavet

Frans Picavet
Midwoudsestraat 12
Schoondijke
Netherlands