

OTTAWA, Canada, 28th June, 1945.

Mr. Charles Leonard,  
Crows Nest,  
British Columbia.

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Our Overseas Headquarters have forwarded to these Headquarters statements made by Flying Officer J.H.J.P. Bourcier and Pilot Officer R.A. Anderson, members of the crew with your son Pilot Officer Raymond Gale Leonard. Flying Officer Bourcier and Pilot Officer Anderson were Prisoners of War but have now been liberated.

They state that their aircraft crashed on the beach at Dieppe. You will understand that as they baled out, they are unable to state what happened to your son. They were later informed by the Germans that the rest of the crew had been killed. I realize that this information will be of little comfort to you, but I felt that you would wish to be advised of these officers' statements.

There are several Services set up in an endeavour to find all particulars possible of crashed aircraft. Some information is available concerning a great many aircraft which crashed or were shot down by the enemy and every possible effort on an organized basis is being put forth to secure all information available. It is the duty of the Graves Registration Units, which are under the control of the Military Authorities to enquire for and locate the graves of all personnel known or believed to have crashed and to have been buried in occupied areas.

A Royal Air Force and Dominion Air Force Missing Research and Enquiry Service has been organized for the purpose of research and enquiry in liberated territories into the circumstances of aircrews reported as casualties. This Service endeavours to obtain additional information to supplement that already received. The civilian population of these areas is being contacted by Radio, Press and Proclamations through the various civic authorities to centralize through this Service any information or concrete evidence they may

have about Air Force personnel or crashed aircraft. Similar instructions have been issued to all Service personnel in these areas.

I wish to again assure you that when any additional information is received concerning your son, it will be forwarded to you. However, I am sure you will realize that owing to the chaotic conditions existing in Europe at the present time and the great number of enquiries confronting these enquiry services, some time may pass before more information is received.

May I extend to you and the members of your family my sincere sympathy in this period of continued anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

*W*  
R.C.A.F. Casualty Officer,  
for Chief of the Air Staff.

EG  
JLW/PHM