



To Flying Officer and Mrs. Allan Alexander Anderson

I have learned with deep regret
Sergeant Air Gunner

that Robert Allan Anderson, R.C.A.F.
has been reported missing.

The Government and people of Canada join
me in expressing the hope that more favourable news
will be forthcoming in the near future.

Charles Fowler
Minister of National Defence for Air



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
OVERSEAS

21st April, 1944.

Mrs. A. Anderson,
Suite 11, Alex Blk.,
Brandon, Manitoba.

Dear Mrs. Anderson,

On behalf of the Squadron and myself may I extend sympathy on the sad loss of your son, Sgt R.A. Anderson, who was missing from operations on the night 20/21st April, 1944.

Your son was a very popular member of the Squadron and carried out his duties as Air Gunner skillfully. His loss was keenly felt by all concerned. Nothing has been heard since take-off, however, it may be that he is a prisoner of war. Time alone can tell us this.

Please be assured that any information we may receive will be communicated to you.

May I explain that the request in the telegram notifying you of the casualty 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 a precaution adopted in the case of all personnel reported as missing.

Yours sincerely,

(G. A. McKenna) Wing Commander,
Officer Commanding,
No. 420 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE

The names of all who lose their lives or are wounded or reported missing while serving with the Royal Air Force will appear in the official casualty lists published from time to time in the press.

Any publication of the date, place, or circumstances of the casualty, and particularly any reference to the Unit concerned, might give valuable information to the enemy, and for this reason, only the name, rank, and Service number are included in the official lists.

Relatives are particularly requested, in the national interest to ensure that any notices published privately do not disclose the date, place or circumstances of the casualty, or the Unit.

The press have been asked to co-operate in ensuring that no information of value to the enemy is published.



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

C.D. 1X

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

41WNWX 34/33 2 EXA GB REPORT DELIVERY

RCAF OTTAWA ONT APL 23-44 913PM

183

MRS A A ANDERSON
SUITE 11 ALEXANDRA BLK BRANDON MAN

M9233 REGRET TO ADVISE THAT YOUR SON R ONE NINE ONE FOUR SIX EIGHT SERGEANT
ROBERT ALLAN ANDERSON IS REPORTED MISSING AFTER AIR OPERATIONS OVERSEAS
APRILTWENTY FIRST STOP LETTER FOLLOWS.

RCAF CASUALTIES OFFICER.

855PM

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

THE SECRETARY,

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR,

OTTAWA, ONTARIO.



OUR FILE..... R 191468 (R.O)

REF. YOUR.....

DATED.....

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

OTTAWA, Canada, 25th April, 1944

A I R M A I L

Flying Officer A.A. Anderson,
No. 3 Wireless School,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

It is my painful duty to confirm the telegram recently received by you which informed you that your son, Sergeant Robert Allan Anderson, is reported missing on Active Service.

Advice has been received from the Royal Canadian Air Force Casualties Officer, Overseas, that your son was a member of the crew of an aircraft which failed to return to its base after air operations over Lens, south west of Lille, France, on the night of April 20th and the early morning of April 21st, 1944. There were three other members of the Royal Canadian Air Force in the crew and they also have been reported missing. Since you may wish to know their names and next-of-kin, we are listing them below:

Warrant Officer Second Class H.C. Wilson
Next-of-kin: Mr. H.H. Wilson (Father)
Ste 3 Bradeen Apartments, Winnipeg, Man.

Warrant Officer Second Class R.G. Leonard
Next-of-kin: Mr. C. Leonard (Father)
Crows Nest, B.C.

Sergeant J.H.J.P. Bourcier
Next-of-kin: Mr. A. Bourcier (Father)
Chateaguay Village, P.Q.

--2--

This does not necessarily mean that your son has been killed or wounded. He may have landed in enemy territory and might be a Prisoner of War. Enquiries have been made through the International Red Cross Society and all other appropriate sources and you may be assured that any further information received will be communicated to you immediately.

Your son's name will not appear on the official casualty list for five weeks. You may, however, release to the Press or Radio the fact that he is reported missing but not disclosing the date, place or his unit.

May I join with you and the members of your family in the hope that better news will be forthcoming in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. Dadd S/O

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

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.



OUR FILE..... R 191468 (R.O.A.)
REF. YOUR.....
DATED.....

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

OTTAWA, Canada, 25th April, 1944

A I R M A I L

Mrs. A.A. Anderson,
Suite 11,
Alexandra Blk.,
Brandon, Manitoba.

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

It is my painful duty to confirm the telegram recently received by you which informed you that your son, Sergeant Robert Allan Anderson, is reported missing on Active Service.

Advice has been received from the Royal Canadian Air Force Casualties Officer, Overseas, that your son was a member of the crew of an aircraft which failed to return to its base after air operations over Lens, south west of Lille, France, on the night of April 20th and the early morning of April 21st, 1944. There were three other members of the Royal Canadian Air Force in the crew and they also have been reported missing. Since you may wish to know their names and next-of-kin, we are listing them below:

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Sergeant J.H.J.P. Bourcier
Next-of-kin: Mr. A. Bourcier (father)
Chateaguay Village, P.Q.

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Yours sincerely,

J. E. Zadd 5/0

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



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
CHAPLAIN SERVICES

420 Squadron, R.C.A.F. Overseas.

25th April, 1944.

Mrs. A. Anderson,
Suite 11 Alex Blk.
Brandon, Man.
Canada.

Dear Mrs. Anderson,

This is just a note to let you know that Bob's friends over here are thinking of you all during these awful days of anxiety and uncertainty. We are all hoping that word may soon come through that he is safe.

Bob had become very popular with the lads in the Squadron, and had the confidence of the other members of his crew. He knew his job, and was always ready to give it the best he knew. His crew were a good bunch of lads, always eager to get at the job for which they had trained so long. I was chatting with them before take-off the night of their last trip, and can assure you that they were in good spirits, and ready to be off. Just what happened is not known as yet.

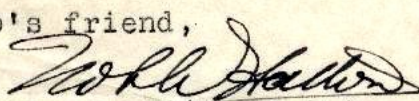
Unfortunately, there is no time limit within which we should get word of them, but I assure you that everything possible is done to obtain information. In the meantime, we must refuse to give up hope.

I realise that no words can lighten your heartache, but I must let you know that we are remembering you all. We pray that God will watch over Bob and the other lads in his crew, and that you may receive faith and courage and strength to carry on. Bob's comrades here are carrying on with a grim determination to keep faith with him and you and so many others who are enduring so much in these days.

If I can be of any service, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bob's friend,


(Noble Hatton) Hon/S/L.
Chaplain (P)

P.S. I REC'D YOUR LETTER AFTER
BOB WAS REPORTED "MISSING"
AM SO SORRY THIS KIND OF
ANSWER WHICH MUST BE
SENT YOU.

N.H.

C.D. IX



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W. D. NEIL, General Manager of Communications

66WNCR 27/26 2 EX REPORT DELIVER GB

RCAF OTTAWA ONT MAY 28TH 1944 1002PM.

MRS A A ANDERSON
STE 11 ALEXANDRE BLK
BRANDON MAN

216

M9763 PLEASED TO ADVISE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN QUOTING GERMAN
INFORMATION STATES YOUR SON SERGEANT ROBERT ALLAN ANDERSON IS PRISONER
OF WAR STOP LETTER FOLLOWS.

RCAF CASUALTIES OFFICER

937PM.

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.



OUR FILE R191468 (R.O.4)
REF. YOUR
DATED

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

OTTAWA, Canada, 30th May, 1944.

Mrs. A.A. Anderson,
Suite 11,
Alexandra Blk.,
Brandon, Manitoba.

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Confirming my telegram of recent date, advice has been received from the International Red Cross Society, quoting German information which states that your son, Sergeant Robert Allan Anderson, is now a Prisoner of War.

It is a pleasure to convey this further information as I feel it will relieve to some extent the great anxiety endured by you and the members of your family.

Attached is a leaflet giving particulars of Departments and Organizations from whom you can obtain advice and assistance, together with a few notes regarding personal effects, promotions etc.

May I again assure you that any additional details received at these Headquarters will be communicated to you immediately.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. O'Brien S/O

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

Notes for Information of the Next-of-Kin
of Prisoners of War.

1. As soon as an Officer or Airman is declared to be a prisoner of war, the Department of National War Services, Ottawa forwards to the next-of-kin detailed information and instructions regarding the despatch of letters and parcels. All enquiries should be addressed to that Department.
2. The Enquiry Bureau, at Ottawa, of the Canadian Red Cross advises the next-of-kin of the services it renders prisoners of war and suggests to them that if they have any difficulty in connection with the quarterly parcels or in addressing the prisoner of war in the right way, or need any other help they should get in touch with the nearest branch of the Red Cross.
3. Prisoners of War Relatives Association is another organization rendering good service to prisoners of war and next-of-kin. It has its headquarters at 130A Sun Life Building, Montreal where a Monthly News Sheet containing matters of interest to Relatives of prisoners of war is published.
4. Prisoners of war may have their personal effects sent to their next-of-kin, relative or friend by writing to Overseas Headquarters of the R.C.A.F., giving them the necessary instructions.
5. The general policy governing the promotion of R.C.A.F., prisoners of war is that they will receive everything that they are eligible and recommended for, up to and including the date of capture or internment. After that date they will be eligible for one step ONLY in rank.
6. A prisoner of war may make a continuous assignment to any person or persons subject to a reserve sufficient to offset such payments as may be made to him by the detaining power and in the case of airmen, a small administrative reserve will be withheld monthly and accumulated in his Pay Account and he may give instructions to remit amounts of accumulated balances standing at his credit in his Pay Account, by addressing a letter to the R.C.A.F. Headquarters Overseas, giving the following particulars:
 - (a) Number.
 - (b) Full name and rank.
 - (c) Name and full address of the person to whom the payment is to be made.
 - (d) Amount of remittance in Canadian Currency.
 - (e) Prisoner's signature duly witnessed by the Camp Leader.
7. The pay and allowances of a prisoner of war will continue to be credited to his Pay Account and assignments of pay and dependent's allowance in issue at date of capture will continue to be paid. The balance standing to his credit, after deductions for assignments and for amounts to cover issues of Pay by the detaining power have been made, will be held in trust for him. (Interest will be allowed at a rate of 3% per annum.)



CANADA

7-501-a

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES

Ottawa, June 7, 1944.

Dear Madam:

Re: Sgt. R.A. Anderson, R191468

We have today been advised by the Department of National Defence for Air that your son Sgt. R.A. Anderson, R191468, who was previously reported missing, is now reported a prisoner of war in Germany. We have also been advised by the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, that he is being held in Stalag Luft III, Germany. His prisoner of war number has not yet been received but we wish to advise you that we have been informed letters and parcels will be delivered without this number. Accordingly, you will please find enclosed:

- (a) regulations concerning communication and parcel post
- (b) list of firms permitted to send tobacco and cigarettes
- (c) list of firms permitted to send books, games, music, sports equipment, etc.
- (d) an official label
- (e) two copies of P/W No. 3, both of which must be completed and enclosed in your parcel
- (f) special purchase permits for tea, coffee and sugar

You will note that the official next of kin only may send personal parcels and this once every three months. However, cigarettes, books, etc. may be sent at any time by anyone through the licensed dealers.

When you have mailed your parcel please return the enclosed card and your next label will go forward to you about ten days prior to September 7th.

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Should you desire official information at any time concerning your son you are advised to contact this office direct, giving his full name and prisoner of war number (if any). You may rest assured we are always interested in the welfare of our prisoners of war.

Yours sincerely,

Leonel Lindsay

for GEORGE D. ALLEN,
Prisoners of War
Next of Kin Division

GDA/S:

Mrs. A.A. Anderson,
Ste. 11, Alexander Blk.,
Brandon, Manitoba.



ADDRESS REPLY TO:

THE SECRETARY,

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR,

OTTAWA, ONTARIO.



OUR FILE R191468 (R.O.4)

REF. YOUR.....

DATED.....

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

OTTAWA, Canada, 7th March, 1945.

Mrs. A.A. Anderson,
Suite 11, Alexandra Blk.,
Brandon, Manitoba.

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Since my letter of August 28th, 1944, further advice has been received from Overseas which states that your son, Robert Allan Anderson, who is a Prisoner of War in Germany, has been commissioned with the rank of Pilot Officer with effect from April 19th, 1944. His Officer's number is J92326.

Notification of the promotion has been forwarded to the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, for transmission to your son.

Yours sincerely,

W. M. Wismer

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



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W. D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

7WAFG30/29 GB 2 EXTRA REPORT DELIVERY

OTTAWA ONT MAY 16 619A 1945

MRS A.A. ANDERSON,

4

153 AUDREY STREET, WINNIPEG MAN

M9071 PLEASED TO ADVISE YOUR SON PILOT OFFICER ROBERT ALLAN
ANDERSON PREVIOUSLY PRISONER OF WAR HAS BEEN LIBERATED AND ARRIVED
SAFELY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM MAY ELEVENTH.

RCAF CASUALTIES OFFICER

552A

Rec May 16.



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
CHAPLAIN SERVICES

21st May, 1945.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Anderson,

I was so happy to be able to welcome and chat with your son, J.92326 P/O Robert Allan Anderson on his safe arrival in England. He looks very well and is in excellent spirits.

Our boys are being well looked after by our own people and it should not be long before they have "caught up" and are back to a more or less normal way of life.

These have been anxious days and we join with you in giving thanks to God that they are ended and that Bob will soon be arriving home.

Sincerely yours,

H. S. Dodgson

S/Ldr. H. S. Dodgson
C.12918, Chaplain (P)
R.C.A.F. Overseas.

Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Anderson
Stell. Alex. Blk
Brandon, Manitoba