

A letter and 3 telegrams for Donald V. Smith's family in Canada

BH 25 55/54 PD 2 EX GB GG RCAF OTTAWA ONT APR 22 408
A V SMITH 240 GAINESBORO RD TORONTO

M9771 REGRET TO ADVISE THAT YOUR SON R SEVEN NOUGHT ONE FIVE TWO
SERGEANT DONALD VICTOR SMITH IS REPORTED MISSING AFTER AIR OPERATIONS
OVERSEAS APRIL 21ST STOP IN INTERETS POSSIBLE SAFETY YOUR SON WITHOLD
INFORMATION FROM PRESS OR RADIO UNTIL NAME ^{APPEARS} ~~BEARS~~ OFFICIAL CASUALTY
LIST FIVE WEEK HENCE STOP LETTER FOLLOWS

RCAF CASUALTIES OFFICER

Mr. A. V. Smith,
240 Gainsborough Road,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Smith:

It is my painful duty to confirm the telegram recently received by you which informed you that your son, Sergeant Donald Victor Smith, 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 a bombing raid over enemy territory on the night of April 20th and the early morning of April 21st, 1943. There were three other members of the Royal Canadian Air Force in the crew, and one member of the Royal Air Force with next-of-kin in Canada, and they also have been reported missing. Since you may wish to know their names and next-of-kin, we are listing them below:

Squadron Leader W. A. Blake, R.A.F.
Next-of-kin, Mrs. W. A. Blake, (wife)
133 Crescent Road, Toronto, Ontario.

Pilot Officer E. R. Vance,
Next-of-kin, Mr. R. H. Vance, (father)
Bethune, Saskatchewan.

Flight Sergeant Louis Krulicki,
Next-of-kin, Mr. John Krulicki, (father)
51 Hett Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario.

Flight Sergeant J. S. Marshall,
Next-of-kin, Mrs. J. S. Marshall, (wife)
10906 - 74th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

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I desire to point out that this does not necessarily mean that your son has been killed or wounded. It might be that he is a prisoner of war and inquiries have been made through the International Red Cross Society and all other appropriate sources. Official announcement that your son has been reported missing will not be made through the Press for at least five weeks and, until then, you are requested not to give any information to the Press or Radio. It is possible that he has landed in enemy territory and in that event publicity at this time might imperil his chance to escape.

You may be assured that any further information received will be communicated to you immediately.

May I join with you and Mrs. Smith in the hope that better news will be forthcoming in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

M.P. Gunn s/o

for (W.R. Gunn)
Flight Lieutenant,
R.C.A.F. Casualties Officer,
for Chief of the Air Staff.

And then the good news

✓
RAB448 17 MAR XCI
TELEPHONED
STOCKHOLM 10 1340
MRS A V SMITH 1014
240 GAINSBORORO TORONTO
AM IN SWEDEN EXCELLENT HEALTH. REGARDS TO EVERYBODY
DON SMITH
1943 MAY 10 PM 5 30
TELEPHONED
To Mrs At 131 By MWO
TO BE DELIVERED MAILED FILED

and more good news

RAB604 15 IMP XCI
OVERSEAS 15 1015
1943 MAY 19 PM 9 58
IC MRS SMITH 1388
240 GAINSBORORD TORONTO
ESCAPED BACK TO ENGLAND FEELING FINE LOVE
DON SMITH

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a full-rate message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

TELEGRAM

Cable Service
to all the World
Money Transferred
by Telegraph

D. E. GALLOWAY, ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT, TORONTO, CAN.

B16 18/17 PD 2 EX GB RCAF OTTAWA ONT MAY 13 1226

A V SMITH 240 GAINSBORO RD TORONTO

M9032 PLEASED TO ADVISE YOUR SON SERGEANT DONALD VICTOR SMITH HAS
ARRIVED SAFELY UNITED KINGDOM

RCAF CASUALTIES OFFICER