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From: Air Commodore H A Probert, MBE MA RAF (Retd)
Head of Air Historical Branch (RAF)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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04-11-1986

David M Whiting Esq
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Your reference

Our reference

D/AHB(RAF)8/27

Date

1 December 1986

Dear Mr Whiting,

Air Vice Marshal Robinson, of the RAF Benevolent Fund, has told me that you are seeking information about the circumstances in which your father, Pilot Officer J M Whiting, was killed in 1944, and we have agreed that I should write to you direct.

The operation on which his aircraft was engaged was minelaying in the area of Kiel Harbour; altogether seventy Lancasters were involved of which three were reported missing. Your father's aircraft, serial number LL950, belonging to No 630 Squadron, took off from its base at East Kirkby at 2218 hours on 21 May, and it was shot down, almost certainly by a night fighter, at 0200 hours on 22 May near Esbjerg. Timings suggest that it was on its homeward flight. All seven members of the crew were killed in the crash and buried by the Germans in the local cemetery on 24 May. Thanks to the discovery of your father's identity disc they eventually informed the International Red Cross Committee that the bodies of Pilot Officer Whiting and six other airmen had been found, but since the Germans had afterwards removed the disc it was later impossible for our own enquiry team to identify his body. Consequently none of the crew's graves (Fourfeldt Gravlund Cemetery Section A, Row 12, Numbers 18-24) is individually named.

I do not really think there is anything else I can usefully say.

Yours sincerely,

Copy to:
Air Vice Marshal M M J Robinson
RAF Benevolent Fund