

The *Under Secretary of State for Air* presents his compliments to
..... **Mr. H.J. Hatfield.** and begs to forward herewith ²photograph
of cross marking the grave of No..... **1580729**..... **Sergeant.**..... (rank)

..... **Arthur Hatfield.**..... (full name).
These have been received from the Army Graves Service, who are responsible for the
temporary marking of war graves.

Temporary crosses will be replaced in due course by permanent headstones to
be erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Details of the inscription
on the temporary cross will be carefully checked at that stage and any errors
rectified before the permanent headstone is erected.

Air Ministry, London, S.W.1 Date..... ¹⁰ **February 1949.** nc



Tel. No. :
GERRARD 923, Ext.

Correspondence on the subject of
this letter should be addressed to
THE UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE

AIR MINISTRY [P.4 (Cas.)],
and should quote the reference

P.4.1.217/14/P.4.A.3.

Your Ref.



AIR MINISTRY

73-77 OXFORD STREET
LONDON, W.1

/ November, 1945.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter of recent date addressed to the Accounts Branch which has been referred to this Department, and to inform you with regret that your brother, Sergeant Arthur Hatfield, Royal Air Force, was reported missing as the result of air operations on the night of the 25th/26th February, 1944, when the Lancaster aircraft in which he was flying as mid-upper gunner set out to bomb Augsburg and failed to return to its base.

Subsequent information received from France, through the United States Army authorities, stated that a four engined aircraft crashed and exploded that night at a place called Leuse, and that the remains of five of the crew were found. Among the personal effects were a watch and a lighter engraved with the name and service number of the Flight Engineer belonging to your brother's crew, and it was by this means that the identity of the aircraft was established.

Unhappily the circumstances of aircraft crashes are frequently such that it is impossible to identify individual members of the crew, or even to ascertain, with certainty, the number of occupants of the aircraft.

/It

H. J. Hatfield, Esq.,
2, Oban Road,
Chilwell,
Notts.



It can only be assumed that such tragic circumstances obtained when your brother's aircraft was brought down.

I am to explain that the identification and registration of the graves of those believed to have lost their lives in enemy territory is carried out by the Graves Registration and Enquiry Service of the War Office. Unhappily the magnitude of this task is such that a considerable time must elapse before all areas are covered and all investigations completed, but I am to assure you that if there is any news you will be notified.

In conclusion I am to express the ^{found}profound sympathy of the Department with you in the great loss you have sustained.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J. Robinson

for Director of Personal Services.

Telephone : Worcester 3411.

Extn.....

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to :—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

and the following number quoted :—

FF320949/44/Accts. 13.



AIR MINISTRY,

WHITTINGTON ROAD,

WORCESTER.

12 September, 1945.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the out turn of the Service Estate of your brother the late Sergeant A. Hatfield is as detailed hereunder:—

	£	s	d
Balance of Pay and Allowances	16	4	6
Service Post War Credit at 6d per day	16	10	0
Refund of Income Tax on Service Emoluments	10	4	0
	42	18	6
<u>Less Mess Bill R. A. F. Station North Killingholme</u>		4	5
	<u>£42</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>

Under the English Law of Intestacy the sum of £42.14.1 is divisible equally between the late airman's four brothers and one sister.

Accordingly, a Postal Draft for £8.10.10 in your favour representing your share is enclosed herewith. Payment of similar amounts have been made to your brothers and sister.

I am to inform you that a sum in respect of War Gratuity will be paid at a later date in accordance with the public announcement that has been made on the subject.

Mr. H. J. Hatfield,
2, Oban Road,
Chilwell,

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Under Secretary of State

TEL. NO. Gerrard 9234
HOLBORN 3434 EXT.....

AIR MINISTRY,

~~ADASTRAL HOUSE,~~

~~KINGSWAY, W.C.2.~~

73-77, Oxford Street,
London, W.1.

7th March, 1947.

P.4.14217/S.7.Cas.C.7.

Dear Mr. Hatfield,

I have now received a report from the Royal Air Force Missing Research and Enquiry Service regarding the recent excavation at the scene of the crash at Leuze. Owing to the assertion by Mrs. Stollar that two bodies had been left in the wreckage a crane to lift the engine and a large party of civilian labourers had to be obtained to complete this task, which has taken some time.

I am glad to say that ~~two~~ bodies were found. But some fragments of bone and clothing, ~~were~~ discovered on the right and left sides of the crater have been reverently reinterred in the grave at Liesse. The Maire, M. Scourbanier, was present throughout the excavation.

I have written to the relatives of the other members of the crew.

I do sincerely hope that this information will set your mind at rest in this sad matter, and that you will now be quite sure that all that remains of this gallant crew will always rest together.

Yours sincerely,

Birch

H.J. Hatfield, Esq.,
2, Oban Road,
Chilwell,
Nottinghamshire

Telephone : Worcester 3411

Extn.....

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THE
UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE,

and the following number
quoted :—

FF. 320949/44/Accts. 13.

Your Ref.....



AIR MINISTRY,
WHITTINGTON ROAD,
WORCESTER.

25th June, 1945.

Sir,

THE LATE SERGEANT A. HATFIELD

I am directed to inform you that this Department is concerned with the administration of the Service Estate of the above-named airman.

In order that legal title may be established I am to request that you will be good enough to complete the enclosed Air Ministry Form 531 and return it to this Department in the accompanying prepaid envelope.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

for Director of Accounts.

Mr. H. Hatfield,
1, Oban Villas,
Chilwell,
Notts.

Encl.

