

14.

R.A.F. Station Ossington,  
Nr. Newark,  
Notts.

19th October 1943.

Ref: OSS/549/27/P.1.

Dear Mr. Dayman,

Before you receive this letter you will have had a telegram informing you of the very sad loss of your Son, Pilot Officer Harold Gordon Dayman.

Official censorship precludes my giving exact details surrounding your Son's death, and all I can say is that whilst taking off on a training flight the aircraft appeared to stall in mid air and crashed into some trees. The accident occurred on the afternoon of 12th October 1943 between Haughton Chapel and Bevercotes, Notts., approximately ten miles from this camp. Three members of the crew (including your Son) unfortunately lost their lives, but four other occupants managed to get clear and are at present in hospital progressing favourably. I understand from the Medical Officer, and it may be of some slight comfort to you to know that in the three cases death was instantaneous.

Owing to the time taken to communicate under present conditions, it was not possible to ascertain your wishes regarding the funeral in the time available, and I had therefore to arrange for his burial without reference to you. You will, I am sure, understand the necessity for this action, and I sincerely trust that the arrangements we were able to make were such as you would have wished.

Your Son's funeral took place at 11.00 hours on Saturday 16th October 1943 at New Ollerton Cemetery approximately 5 miles from the Camp. A funeral service was held at 0935 hours in a private chapel on the camp prior to proceeding to New Ollerton. The service was conducted by our O.D. Chaplain the Revd. Rayner. Full service honours were accorded, the coffin being carried by men of this unit, which also provided a firing party, and the coffin was covered with the Union Jack. The Last Post was sounded by the graveside.

Wreaths were sent from the Station Commander, the Officer's Mess, and Senior N.C.O's., and airmen of the unit, I am hoping to send you a photograph of the grave as soon as the wooden cross is erected.

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You will wish to know all war graves are taken care of by the Imperial War Graves Commission who will erect a temporary wooden cross pending the provision of a permanent memorial by them.

Your Son's effects have been gathered together and sent to the Royal Air Force Central Depository, from where they will be forwarded to the Administrator of Estates Ottawa, who will be writing to you on this matter.

May I now express the great sympathy which we all feel with you in your sad loss. I can assure you his loss is very keenly felt by his fellow colleagues on the course. It seems so very sad in that he was foiled from attaining the goal for which he had been striving, i.e. the striking of a blow at the enemy in the great cause of freedom.

Yours sincerely,

*Edward Laine*

Group Captain, Commanding,  
R.A.F. Station, Ossington.

Mr. William Dayman,  
Carmangon,  
Alberta,  
Canada,

J29998	P/O.	DAYMAN, W. G.
(NUMBER)	(RANK)	(NAME)
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