



OUR FILE 43-1-1 Chap (P)1  
REF. YOUR.....  
DATED.....

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE  
"Western Air Command"

Vancouver, B. C.,  
6th September, 1945

Mrs. E. Hammond,  
32 Winksworth Rd.,  
Banstead, Surrey,  
ENGLAND

Dear Mrs. Hammond:

Thank you for your very kind letter dated 20th August in which you made further inquiries regarding the death and burial of your son, Sgt. J. L. G. Hammond.

You state in your letter, Mrs. Hammond, "There is one thing about which I am not clear, and that is in the C. O.'s letter our son was reported missing, presumed dead". This was originally so stated for Royal Canadian Air Force official purposes, until such time as positive identification was definitely proven. Only after the search party actually reached the scene of the tragedy could such positive identification be made.

There is another point about which you seem concerned, and that is as you state: "the C.O.'s letter also said that the plane which was fully loaded, exploded on impact." This is undoubtedly true and it is also equally true that the bodies of the boys were wrapped in salvaged parachutes and buried together. There is really nothing further that can be said, Mrs. Hammond, neither is it possible for me to "write more fully on this point" as your letter requests.

Thanks again for your letter. It is hoped that this will relieve your mind on these questions.

Yours sincerely,

*E. W. S. Gilbert F/L*

(E. W. S. Gilbert) F/L - Chaplain (P)1  
Western Air Command - Vancouver, B. C.