

Reply: 40 Capt A. Zuppinger R.A.S.C.
C.S.D. Southbury
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TELEPHONE NO.
KENSINGTON BLDG.
TELEGRAMS
CROICENT, LONDON.



HOTEL REMBRANDT,
LONDON,
S.W.
7.

Sept.

My dear Joan,

Thank you for your letter which I received last week, & I apologize for the delay in writing. I wanted to write you as soon as I returned but was bound down by the Air Ministry. However as they appear to ^{have} given you a certain amount of information, I'll tell you what I can. You will appreciate my difficulty I know, but I will be completely truthful & honest with you, as I think you can take it the right way.

I've had bombed our objective on the night of 1/8/Aug.



ROYAL AIR FORCE
1917-1918

RECEIVED
1917-1918
ROYAL AIR FORCE
1917-1918

∴ were approaching the French Coast east of Le Havre. About 6-10 miles from the coastline, we were attacked by a German fighter, who came in three times ∴ eventually set the aircraft ablaze in the cockpit.

The rear gunner, mid-upper gunner wireless operator ∴ bomb aimer were killed ∴ I have personally seen their grave. The engineer baled out first, followed by the second nav. (Bob King.) ∴ I followed them. King was burnt a little ∴ I burned my legs getting out, ∴ sprained my ankle on landing. Bob was still flying the aircraft in all this, ∴ believe me Joan, I feel very

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HOTEL REMBRANDT,
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proud of him. He was a real skipper, & stuck to his job.

I wandered about all night, trying to find assistance & finally at nine o'clock next morning, contacted some French people who passed me on from one to another until that evening I was taken (with Paddy Terrans the engineer) to a farm in the woods. Here we hid for three weeks while a local doctor looked after my burns, & ankle, & patched up a few scratches on Paddy. While there they told me that King had been caught by the Germans & taken to Le Havre Hospital to get his

burns dressed. Bob was picked up by a renegade Frenchman & passed over to the Germans, who also took him to the same hospital. He was a little worse off than we, but exactly how much I could not discover. The Frenchman concerned was picked up by the local Maquis, & they showed me Bob's signet ring, wrist watch & your address which he had written out. These were retained by the Chief of the Local Resistance Movement, for, I presumed, restoration to you.

As far as I know, they were both in Le Havre Hospital.

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HOTEL REMBRANDT,
LONDON,
S.W.
7.

right up to the time of capitulation
& since then I have been eagerly
awaiting news of their return.
When our troops moved to
within six miles of our farm,
Paddy & I made a dash for it
& got in touch with them on
the 1st Sept. Then by degrees
we were passed back to the
beach head, & embarked by
sea for Newhaven on the 4th
Sept.

Since then I have been busy
with medical boards, hospitals,
kit chasing, (about £40 worth missing!)
& sick leave. I have my ankle

encased in plaster, & it should
be all right by the 16th Oct.

The point about Bob, Jean,
is that he may or may not have
moved out of Le Havre; we shelled
& bombed it too, but tried to
avoid the hospital etc. So you
see - I don't want to raise false
hopes of any kind. I have told
you all I know, & I can but
add that I hope & pray that
things will come out all right
for you. & I think I know enough
about you to realise that you will
understand.

Did you know that Bob
had driven his car to its usual

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HOTEL REMBRANDT,
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garage in Market Starboro' for
servicing. I mentioned it to
the Adjutant & asked him to
let you know. If you want
to dispose of it or anything like
that, let me know & I'll be
very pleased to do anything
to help you.

I'll try & visit you
when I can, & we will have
a more personal talk.

Goodbye for now, &
remember Joan - you have a
husband to be proud of.

Yours very sincerely Blam