

Information from National Archives file Air 81/155 14 showing details of the crew of Stirling W7538 on 25/26 June 1942 and a letter on behalf of The Commanding Officer of 214 Squadron

In a copy of a letter (enclosed on the National Archives file Air 81/15514) to the Under Secretary of State at the Air Ministry on 20 July 1942, a Flight Lieutenant Hope writes on behalf of the Wing Commander, Commanding No.214 (FMS) Squadron.

His letter reads:

Sir,

Stirling Aircraft W. 7538.

I have the honour to refer to Coltishall signal A.393 dated 26.6.42, in respect of the above aircraft.

Stirling aircraft No. W. 7538, Captained by P/O. J. C. Smith (J.6060) was returning from operations on the night of 25/26th. June 1942, when it was attacked by enemy night fighters.

The port outer engine was damaged the propeller and reduction gear being shot away) and the Flight Engineer (631478 Sgt. McCoy, W.C.) and Front Gunner (1175876 Sgt. Williams, J.) were injured.

The aircraft returned on three engines and as the undercarriage failed to lower, crash landed at Coltishall.

The crew were as follows:-

J.6060 P/O. J. G. Smith 1861701 - Captain.

1261701 Sgt. Perry, J.J. - 2nd. Pilot.

110609 P/O. D. N. Osborne - Observer.

631478 Sgt. McCoy, W. C. - Flt. Eng.

1110178 Sgt. Watt, W.B. 1st. - WO/AG.

1175876 Sgt. Williams, J. - F/G.

625298 F/Sgt. Johnston, C.K. - M.U.G.

954272 Sgt. Davison, G. - R/G.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[J?] Hope F/LT

(for) Wing Commander, Commanding No.214 (FMS) Squadron