

Second World War – John Alfred Parry Missing report

The following is from the National Archives: Air 81/5780

AIR MINISTRY.

number.

269/41

SUBJECT.

9.4.41
DAY PATROL

F.B. BLENNHEIM. N. 3609.

84950 P/O PARRY, J.A.

85023. P/O. GIBSON. C.G.

455094 Soc. WEST. RK.

MISSING.

d subjects
ubsequent
cover.

DATE.	REFERRED TO.	DATE.	REFERRED TO.	DATE.	REFERRED TO.	DATE.
11/4/41						
1/10/42						
17/6/42						
15/7/47						
16/50						
4/6/50						
20/6/50						
17/1/50						
30/11/50						
1/12/50						
4/12/50						
20/3/51						
7/1/4						
12/4/51						
16/4/51						
26/5/51						
30/8/51						
1/4/54						
25/1/55						
11/3/56						
2/3/56						

AIR 81/5780

NOTATION of decisions, etc.,
in Branch precedent book or
records.

BRANCH	INITIALS	DATE

AUTHORITY TO P.A.

XAE000018365

TNT

Immediately cancelled

Note

P/O J. A. PARRY

P/O C. G. GIBSON

755094 SGT R. K. WEST

✓✓
31 A

Enclosures 18 A-B, 19 A, 20 A-B show that since 9th April 1941, when they were reported missing, no news of the a/w personnel has been received by the Unit, Agents, next of kin or Records Office.

Death is therefore presumed, for official purposes, as having occurred on 9th April 1941 (ref A 32547/39)

PAS(P)

Letters to the next of kin are submitted herewith

for signature

R. Bradbury

Enclosures 21 A-

PHC as

1. 11/41

C. G. F. 11

22

5/11/41 PRESUMPTION NOTICES SENT TO UNIT, GROUP, UXBRIDGE RECORDS & COLNBROOK

23

1/11/41

Reply from E. G. Gibson Esq

24

19.11.41

Actia

sheet.

25

11.6.42.

Letter dt. 8.6.42 from Major Horrocks & Christian Jones applying for R of R in P/O J. A. PARRY to be attached

26

21/6/47

Attachment form

X 60
203

S. 14 (Cas.C.5)

POST PRESUMPTION MEMORANDUM NO. 1563/47

DATE 26/6/47

FILE NUMBER P. 358269/41

Relating to BLENHEIM N. 3609 Missing on 9/4/41

Assumed crashed at Sea - Reconnaissance of NORWEGIAN COAST.

NO.	RANK	NAME	BURIAL DETAILS	INFORMATION
			<u>LOST AT SEA</u>	<u>LOST AT SEA</u>
84950	P/O	PARRY, J.A.	Nothing has been	Circumstantial Report states
85023	P/O	GIBSON, C.G.	heard of these	that aircraft was attacked
755094	SGT.	WEST, R.K.	three members since	by enemy fighters off
			they were reported	Norwegian Coast, after
			missing on 9/4/41	completing mission was over-
			It is assumed they	heard by accompanying airera
			lost their lives at	to call BASE after the attac
			sea.	<u>CASE CLOSED.</u>

Circulation

G.97468

Amendments (B.1)
Chron. Cards (B.1)
S. 14 (Cas.C.5)
R.A.A.F. O.H.Q.
P. File.
B. 1. (MEM)

21A
9/41/P.4.(B).

November, 1941.

Madam,

I am commanded by the Air Council to state that in view of the lapse of time and the absence of any further news regarding your husband, Pilot Officer J.A. Perry, since the date on which he was reported missing, they must regretfully conclude that he has lost his life, and his death will be presumed, for official purposes, to have occurred on the 9th April, 1941.

The Council desire me to express again their sincere sympathy with you in your bereavement and in the anxiety which you have suffered.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) CHARLES EVANS.

J.A. Perry,
The Whins,
Troon,
Ayrshire.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Alb. Hill
Flight Lieutenant,

for Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 254 Squadron, R. A. F.,

17A

2 October 1941.

P358269/41/P.4.B.s

2 October 1941.

P358269/41/P.4.(B)

Madam,

With reference to the letter from this department dated the 22nd August 1941 I am directed to inform you that in view of the lapse of time and the absence of any news concerning your husband Pilot Officer J.A. Parry, since he was reported missing, it is now proposed to take action to presume his death for official purposes.

I am accordingly to ask that you will be good enough formally to confirm that you have received no further evidence or news regarding him.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,

R. Bradbury

for Director of Personal Services.
for Director of Personal Services.

Mrs. J.A. Parry,
2, G. G. The Whins,
40 Le Troon Road,
Ayrshire,
Scotland.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,

A. S. Hill

Flight Lieutenant,
for Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 254 Squadron, R. A. F.,
Sumburgh, Shetlands.

136
Dept. C.I.

2 June, 1941.

P.356269/41/P.4.Cas.

Sir,
Madam,

I am directed to refer to a letter from this Department dated the 13th April, 1941, and to inform you with regret that no further news has been received of your husband, Pilot Officer John Alfred Parry, since he was reported missing on the 9th April, 1941.

Two aircraft took off at 12.45 a.m. on the 9th April, to carry out a reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast, and the one in which your husband was operating failed to return to the base. The second aircraft reported that enemy fighters had been encountered off the Norwegian coast. A search was made by five aircraft and a surface vessel, but no trace could be found of the missing machine or any of its occupants.

I am to add an expression of the Department's sincere sympathy with you in your great anxiety, and to assure you that should any further news be received it will be immediately communicated to you.

Yours obedient Servant,
I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,

L. G. SHREVE

for Director of Personal Services.

Mrs. J.A. Parry,
The Whins,
Troon,
Ayrshire,

Royal Letter.

P/4/1665

25/6/41

W. A. WEST.

Op/A.G.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,

Flight Lieutenant
for Squadron Leader.

min for The Whins, 8A
Ayrshire.
1 room.

92nd April, 1941.

835255
The Secretary,
Air Ministry, Dept. G.S.,
Adastral House,
Kingsway W.C.2.

To: P4 Cus
With: Enclosures.
Received: 24 APR 1941
Initials if known: P358269/41
File No: 11/4/41
To: 11/4/41

Ref. P. 358269/41/P.4. Casualties.

Dear Sir,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of
the telegram sent to me on the 12th April,
informing me that my husband John
Alfred Parry (Pilot Officer) Royal Air Force
is missing as the result of air operations
on 5th April, 1941. I shall be grateful
for further news, when possible.

Thanking you -

I am yours sincerely
(Mrs) Margaret E. Parry.

When Blenheim N.309 was two hours overdue
were despatched on organised parallel search of
90 miles along track between base and point of
Coast. Speedboat from Lerwick co-operated. N

No reports of any sort were received from
base, which on its failure to return was reported.

The crew of the missing aircraft was as

Reference:-
254S/701/P.1

No. 254 Squadron,
R.A.F. Station,
SUMBURGH,
Shetlands.

12th April, 1941.

To: *P. Cas*
With
Recd
16 APR 1941
Initials *D6*
File No.
To:

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report in accordance with Appendix III of A.P. 1301 and in amplification of R.A.F. Station, Sumburgh, signal A.234 dated 10th April, 1941.

On receipt of instructions from Headquarters, No. 18 Group, to carry out a reconnaissance on the Norwegian Coast, permission was obtained from the Controller for another aircraft to accompany the one detailed, to gain experience. Blenheim N.3609 with 84950 Pilot Officer J.A. Parry as pilot was despatched at 12.45 hours, and Blenheim V.5736 with 41708 Flying Officer K. Illingworth (D.F.C.) as pilot at 12.50 hours.

The two aircraft, after completing the reconnaissance, set course for base and were about four miles from Norwegian Coast when three Me 110s appeared, closing rapidly from astern. Both aircraft took evasive action; Blenheim N.3609 passed the other and disappeared into cloud, Blenheim V.5736 also resorted to cloud cover. When Blenheim V.5736 appeared a few minutes later, there were no aircraft visible, so continued on course to base. At 15.35 hours, approximately 50 miles from base, Blenheim V.5736 heard Blenheim N.3609 calling base. Blenheim V.5736 landed at 16.00 hours.

When Blenheim N.3609 was two hours overdue, five Blenheims were despatched on organised parallel search for approximately 90 miles along track between base and point of leaving Norwegian Coast. Speedboat from Lerwick co-operated. Nothing was sighted.

No reports of any sort were received from this aircraft at base, which on its failure to return was reported missing.

The crew of the missing aircraft was as follows:-

84950 P/O. J.A. PARRY.	- Pilot.
N/K P/O. C.G. GIBSON.	- Observer.
755094 Sgt. R.K. WEST.	- W.Op/A.G.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. Hill
Flight Lieutenant,
for Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 254 Squadron, R. A. F.,
Sumburgh,
Shetlands.

To:-

The Under Secretary of State
Air Ministry

M.R.

8300

IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM EN CLAIR

To:- H.Q.43 Group (Salvage) Oxford
(R) A.M. C.I. Accidents and P.4.
(Cas) H.Q.18 Group H.Q.C.C.
Records 56 M.U. 254 Squadron.

From:- Sumburgh.

Received A.M.C.S.S. 1515 Hrs.
10.4.41.

A.234 10/4. F.B.

(A) Blenheim MK.IV N.3609 (B) 254
Squadron. (C) Unknown. Aircraft failed
to return 9 Apr. from day patrol
(D) Pilot 84950 P/O J.A. Parry missing
Observer - P/O C.G.G. Gibson A.E.
missing W.OP/AG 755094 Sgt. R.K. West
missing (E) Unknown. (F) I.E.F. and
S.A.A. (G) Unknown A.B. Enquiry
unnecessary (H) Cat E. missing.
(J) N/A. (K) 56 M.U.

Time of Origin: 1120 Hrs.
10.4.41.

Advance copies to:-

P.S. to Parly U.S. of S.
P.4.Cas.
Z.A. (By T/P).

"CRASH CIRCULATION"

Form 96A.
(Naval).

MESSAGE FORM

Office Serial No.

IN

OUT

No. of
Groups
GR

Office Date Stamp

IMMEDIATE

(Above this line is for Signals use only.)

TO* MRS. J. A. PARRY
C/O HIGHLAND HOTEL DEE STREET ABERDEEN

FROM* A.M.

Originator's Number

Date

Your/My

Number and Date

P

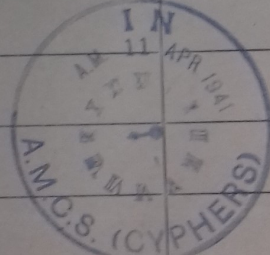
421

11/4/41

(Write horizontally)

Regret to inform you that your husband Pilot
Officer JOHN ALFRED PARRY is reported missing
as the result of air operations on 9th April 1941
Letter follows. Any further information received
will be immediately communicated to you.
Should news of him reach you from any other
source please advise this department. His
father and cousin Miss D.A. FAIRBAIRN are
being informed.

DESPATCHED
EN CLAIR



This message must be sent AS WRITTEN
and may be sent by W/T.

Signature *[Signature]*

This message must be sent IN CYPHER
and may be sent by W/T.

Signature

Originator's Instructions* Degree of Priority*

IMMEDIATE

TIME OF
ORIGIN 070

T.O.R.

* Indicator to insert "NOT" if message is not to go by W/T over any part of the route. (Below this line is for Signals use only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

T.H.I.

* The Signal Department is responsible that these details are transposed to the appropriate portion of the message form and that all possibility of compromise
disseminating signals, etc., by omitting to remove their designation from the address, etc., is avoided. Before delivery of the message these details are to be re-inserted in

(30294) Wt. 40/20/20 230,000 pads. 1/49 Hw. T.5649

ADVANCE COPY

Ps. Army
Ps. Army

1A

8300

IMMEDIATE

NR 968

NR

NR

968

IMMEDIATE

FROM HQ CAS

GR 85

ADDRESSED TO HQ43 GROUP (SALVAGE) OXFORD (B) A.M. (C.1.2)
(ACCIDENTS) AND P.4. (CAS) - HQ 18 GROUP - HQCC
RECORDS 56 MU - 254 SQDN.

RECEIVED

FROM TUNBURN

WES4 10/4

F.J.L.

WELSHMAN WNL IV K. 3609 B 254 SQUADRON C ANNOY

CAT. 1414

WELSHMAN TO RETURN 9 APR FROM DAY PATROL D PILOT

P/O J.A. PARRY MISSING OBSERVER - P/O C.G.G. GIBSON A.E.

MISSING WELSHMAN 250094 SGT R.K. WEST - MISSING. E UNKNOWN

F. R.F.F. AND S.A.A. E UNKNOWN A.B. ENQUIRY UNNECESSARY

WELSHMAN E. MISSING J N/A K 56RU

WELSHMAN

WELSHMAN WNL IV WA WEST - MISSING.

WELSHMAN

WELSHMAN WNL IV WA WEST - MISSING.

15.5.1

CASUALTY VERIFICATION SHEET.

Name of officer

PARRY.

JOHN

ALFRED

Date of birth

NOT SHOWN

Rank & No.

P/O 84950

Place of birth

Unit

254 Sqdn.

Type of commission

R. A. F. V. R.

Date of casualty

29/4/41

Date and reference of report

A235 10/4

Name & address of wife (if any)

MRS M. C. PARRY.

56 HIGHLAND HOTEL

DEE STREET

ABERDEEN

If to be informed of casualty Particulars of next-of-kin

FATHER

A. H. PARRY Esq

other than wife person to be

informed of casualties.

PARASIA P.O.

DISTRICT CHINDWARA

CENTRAL PROVINCES

INDIA

Any other person to be informed of casualty

ALSO COUSIN

MISS D. A. FAIRBAIRN

X: Telegram Abadeen Mm 7A.
 Letter ^{wire} ~~referred~~ redirected to
 Mrs PARRY
 G. 1219. The Whins
 Thron
 Ayrshire.

"RYCOTE"

30^A WIMBOURNE ROAD

BOURNEMOUTH HANTS

