

5/2/17563.P.R.8.

Mrs. J. G. Davis.
153, Ettrick Street.
Invercargill.

12th January, 1949.

Dear Mrs Davis,

Further to my previous correspondence concerning your son Flight Sergeant Mervyn Desmond Sylvester Davis, I have to advise that additional information has now been received from the Air Ministry.

This states that investigations have recently been completed in the area in which your son's plane was reported to have crashed, and the following is a copy of the investigating officers report:-

"Whilst conducting enquiries in the district of Goepfingen, it was learned that a British aircraft had crashed in the village of Waschenbeuren on the 16th March 1945.

The village was visited, and inhabitants stated that at about 10pm on the 16th March 1945, an aircraft flying low and on fire, passed over the village and exploded as it crashed in a forest to the East of the village. Two airmen were seen to bale out of the burning plane.

Two bodies were recovered from the wreckage, and buried in the local cemetery. Several days later three others were extracted from the debris and buried on the spot.

Another member of the crew was found near the village of Maitis, and buried there, the seventh member of the crew baled out successfully and was later captured in the waiting room at Waeschenbeuren by the Germans, this was Sgt. L. Titmus. The aircraft was definitely identified by the engine number plates which were recovered from the scene of the crash."

POST PRESUMPTION MEMORANDUM NO. 5163/48

FILE NUMBER P.430623/45

DATE 20.11.48

Relating to LANCASTER FB.153

Missing on 16/17.3.45

Crashed at WASCHENBEUREN, GERMANY

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	BURIAL DETAILS	INFORMATION
			<u>BAD TOLZ</u> <u>(DURNBACH) B.M.</u> <u>CEMETERY</u> <u>Plot Row Grave</u>	<u>GERMANY</u> M.R. & E.S. report concentration of these six members to the Cemetery indicated. Sgt. WILKIE was originally buried in WASCHENBEUREN Cemetery and the remaining five members were buried in the vicinity of the crash. One member safe. Case closed
1899093	Sgt.	WILKIE E.C.	XI B 1	M.R. & E.S. report concentration of these six members to the Cemetery indicated. Sgt. WILKIE was originally buried in WASCHENBEUREN Cemetery and the remaining five members were buried in the vicinity of the crash. One member safe. Case closed
1587777	F.S.	GUSCOTT R.T.O.	XI B 2)	
1603064	F.S.	RICHARDS J.W.	XI B 3)	
NZ.4213333	F.S.	ROY E.A.	XI B 4)	
1684920	F.S.	HILDER W.L.	XI B 5)	
NZ.427103	F.S.	DAVIS M.D.S.	XI B 6)	
			Collective FILE 270971249B	
Circulation: P. File B.1 (Alpha) B.1 (Chron. Cards) B.1 (MEM)				
		S. 14 Cas. (C.5)		
		S. 14 Cas. (C.7)		
		R.N.Z.A.F. O.H.Q. 3		
				G. 215611(g)/ABC/11/48(NFS)