

8 Station Rd
Rushden
Northants

My Dear Friend

I answer to your letter I received yesterday I can't tell you how pleased we were to hear from you We had all been talking about you all these last few weeks and about our dear boys I think really as time goes on we long for them more, at times we have such a craving for them it seems almost unbearable I do think such a lot about your mother as I know she

as that heavy burden to
carry if only we had known
the end of them but that
we shall never know. It
seemed terrible to think
they were looking forward
for their leave the next
day Frank had made so
many arrangements he was
like your brother a good boy
he never caused us any trouble
he loved his Sunday School
and Chapel he was one of
the sidesman at chapel
he was well known amongst
them all I am so glad we
have a photo of your brother he
looks such a nice boy I prize it
very much I have put it in
a frame with Frank I show
it to all my friends I do hope
your mother and father are
much better. I felt I wanted

to write to your mother as
Ivy had always answered
your Father's letters I did not
know if I had done right
in writing to your mother
but now I have heard from you
I do feel so pleased. Yes Ivy
was married 12 months last October
now I shall be Grandma at the
end of March or the first week
in April she has been at home
with me now 3 months she gave
up work she was so poorly the
I said as she done office work
she would be better at home
she is a lot better now we are
looking forward so much to this
happy occasion I'm afraid we
shall spoil it as I love babies
I've bought a team her Father has
bought a cot I think I am
spending more than she is but
she is my baby and she seems
so young she is not yet 22 now
Violet is 31 she does not bother
about a young man but Ivy

as got a real good husband
they are so happy together
there are so many getting married
and not thinking seriously enough
about it but I'm sure it is
a real love match with Ivy and
her husband. Your sister is still
down in Wiltshire fancy you
being stationed one time at Fatesburg
Frank was there a long time when
he first joined up. I wish you
were a bit nearer to us we
would love to see you if ever
you do come this way or your
sister Mary do come and see us
I must tell you we are only
home by people but there would
always be a hearty welcome
you are a long way from home
its a pity you can't come here
when you get a short leave
Now we are wondering if you are
older than Mary. You will give
our kind regards to your Mother
and Father won't you perhaps

I shall write to your mother
before Xmas now I have
had such a lovely letter
from you. Violet and Ray
was delighted when they knew
who the letter was from I had
gone to Chapel to our Mother's
meeting They said she longed
to open it - to know who had
sent it she knew I wouldnt
have said anything if she had
I dont feel I want to lose touch
with you it seems so nice to be
able to talk to some-one about
our loved ones and I am sure
you are always in our minds

Now I must thank you very
much for writing we shall
always be pleased to hear
from you or to see you

yours very Sincerely

L. Childs

8. Station Road.

Rushden.

Northants.

26 - 12 - 41.

Dear Mr. McLean,

I am writing
on behalf of my mother and
father to thank you for your
letter.

We were very
pleased to hear from you as
we did not know the names
of the other members of the
crew, and we, like you, hope
we shall soon hear some
good news.

If we do hear
anything we will get in
touch with you at once.

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We would be pleased if
you would give us the
names and addresses of
the rest of the crew.

My mother & father offer
you their sincere sympathy
and appreciate your kind
thought in writing.

Yours sincerely,

Guy Childs.

W: 13.1.42

8. Station Road,
Rushden.
Northants.
28.1.42.

Dear Mr. McLean,

I am writing to thank you for the two letters we have received from you.

Since I last wrote to you we have received another letter stating that the body of Sgt. Heald had been recovered, and we wrote to his wife but so far we have received no reply.

We received a letter today from Mrs. Hallay but so far she has received no further news of her son.

My mother and father say that keeping in touch as we are doing with

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You and Mrs. Halley gives a great deal of comfort and helps to bear the burden of this great loss. We had such a brave letter from Mrs. Halley who seems to be bearing up quite well.

I hope we shall all be given courage to face the future. as the Boys had courage to face the danger.

I am enclosing a cutting from the local paper which I think might be of interest to you.

Yours in sympathy,

Guy Childs.

W: 22/6/42

June 23^d/H^a

WHITE LODGE,
BROUGHTON FERRY,
N.Y.

My dear W^r Dr^c. Lean

Thank you so much
for your kind letter & sympathy.
I received the same notice from the
Air Ministry as you did, a few days
ago. If you had still been
hoping, it would be a bitter blow
for you. For myself, I have
never had the slightest hope
from the first moment. I was
out myself that night, & from the
gale that was blowing & the
darkness, I knew (or thought I
did) that rescue was impossible.
It is hard on our darling boys
that they should have to make this

Supreme sacrifice
to duty, but I believe
that they still live
+ work in some
sphere beyond the reach
of Hitler's guns.

With my true sympathy in your
time of anguish + trial

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Margaret A. Halleck

8. Station Road.

Rushden.

Moritants.

28. 6. 42.

Mr. McLean.

We were pleased to hear from again. But sorry to hear you hadn't better s. Our thoughts have been with you all way through and wondered if you had d anything. But expected you would write us if you had.

It was nice of you to tell about your family as we imagined you was the only child. I had 2 more others besides Frank but they both died few years ^{ago} within 3 weeks of one another. was 26 and the other 11 so we thought lot of Frank as he was the only boy left.

I am 19 and I have an sister. She and my father both work the Boot trade and I am a shorthand stenographer in a transport firm. My mother and father are getting on now as Dad is 64 and my mother 63. Mother had an accident

er shoulder so that's another shock.

We shall be pleased to hear from you
anytime you feel inclined to write, and if
you should have a snap of Charles to spare
we would be very pleased to see one.

If your daughter is ever stationed
this way and would like to call she would
be most welcome. or if any of you happen
to be this way we should be pleased to see
you.

We hope Mrs. McLean is keeping
up as well as possible because we know
what the anxiety is.

Thank you once more for your

letters.

Yours sincerely,

Joy Childs.

8 Station Rd
Rushden
Northants
26/12/43

My Dear Mr McLean

It has been
a long time since we wrote
to you but that does not
mean we have forgotten
you We often talk about
you all also about your
dear boy it has seemed
terrible this Xmas without
them myself and the
girls had a good cry
this morning we do miss
Frank so much there
comes that longing for
them at times it

seems more than we can
bear I know you have
just the same feeling
We were so delighted to
hear from Effie the other
week it was kind of her
to write after all this
time there seems some-how
a link between us since
our boys were together we
do treasure your sons snap
you sent us we have it
in a frame with Frank I
know Frank was very fond
of him. I wish your daughters
were nearer to us we would
love them to have a week
end with us. We do hope
you have had as nice
a tmas as possible respect
I shall be Grandma the

end of March it is some-
thing to look forward to
as I am very fond of children
it is Lucy who is expecting
a baby I can hardly realize
it as she is my baby she
seems so young she is not
yet 22 her husband is
in the forces so that means
she is still at home I
do hope you and Mr. McLean
are both well we all
wish you the best of
health in the new year
and hope you will soon
have your daughter home
with you again and

God Bless you always

Very Sincerely Yours

W. C. Helds

8, Station Road,
Rushden,
Northants.
27.4.46.

Dear Mr. McLean,

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you but I thought you would be interested to know we have this week received some snapshots of my brother's grave.

These were very kindly sent to us by a Scotch lady who is now living in Holland, 20 miles from where Hank is buried. A friend of his who is an officer in the R.A.F. lived for a time at Elgin, Scotland with this ladies

friend and she sent all the details through for us, and this week my mother received these snaps together with a very lovely letter.

This lady lives at Breeg and and she says Bergen is a village on the North Sea coast. There are many airmen & naval men buried there and on one photo we could see that Sgt. Heald is buried next to my brother.

The graves are very well kept and this lady & her husband took daffodils & 2 pots to place them in on Frank's grave - they say every time they are there

they will place flowers on his grave. The inscription on the cross is in German, it is "Here rests Sgt. F. Childs."

The sea gave him up 12.12.1941.

We are glad to know that someone has visited his grave & it is cared for. My husband did try to get there but he was only granted 48 hours leave and after travelling 150 miles he couldn't get any further until the next day as the transport was so bad, and he was then sent to Palestine, but is due home this week for demobilisation.

I hope you are all well & that your daughter

are home with you.

It is good to see the
fellows returning home but it
is sad for those whose loved
ones will not return.

My mother is going
to write to Sgt. Heald's wife
but we don't know if the
letter will find her, but
once she wrote from his
mother's address, so if we
cannot get in touch with
her my mother will write
to Sgt. Heald's mother as I
am sure she would like a
snap of her son's grave &
you can see the inscription
on it quite plainly.

The lady who wrote

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from Holland said there were
many Scotch names on the
graves.

Please give our kindest
regards to Mrs. Medean.

Yours sincerely,
Ivy E. Smith.