



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Room 413

Lacon House Theobalds Road WC1X 8RY
Telephone (Direct Dialling) 01-430-6440
(Switchboard) 01-430-5555

Mr B Gillard
56 Ashworthy Close
Bransholme
HULL
HU7 4EX

Our reference
D/AHB(RAF)8/1

5TH
October 1987

Dear Mr Gillard

LANCASTER CREW MEMORIAL PLAQUE

In reply to your letter dated 14 September, Lancaster W4303 of 1654 CU at RAF Wigsley, crashed 3 miles NE of Hull to the south of Humbleton Village at 0308 hours on 24 May 1943.

Investigations into the accident revealed a major structural failure had occurred, which was probably due to the collapse of the tailfins during evasive action during a Bullseye exercise. Crew roster (UK Nationals except where given):

- Sgt G N J Bryde RAAF Pilot )
Sgt J H R Harper Bomb Aimer )
Sgt N McMullan Wireless Operator/ )
Air Gunner )
Sgt C Nelson RAAF Flight Engineer ) No Survivors
P/O L H Parker Air Gunner )
Sgt D F Smith Air Gunner )
F/O F V P Turner Navigator )
P/O J A Walker Navigator )

Yours sincerely

[Handwritten signature]

R C M KING
Air Historical Branch 3(RAF)

W4303 Lancaster Mk1 - one of a batch of 207 built by A.U Roe, Manchester between July and November 1942.

Originally operational with no 50 Squadron at Skellingthorpe who were re-equipped with Lancasters from Manchester on October 16 1942.

According to B. Gillard
October 1987