

405<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
38<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 929

24 May 1946

Mr. Henry Mathias Lorang  
RFD Genesee, Idaho

Dear Mr. Lorang:

Prior to receiving this letter you will have undoubtedly been notified by the War Department of the death of your Son Robert. I as well as all the men in this organization wish to extend to you our deepest and most sincere sympathies. Your Son Robert was killed on a routine surveillance flight when his plane crashed into the Japan Sea on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May at 1655 Island time. The accident took place at a position 52 Nautical miles North of Ashiya Army Air Base and approximately 15 miles from the island of Mi-Shima. His body was not recovered.

This is bitter news, I know, and will bring much grief to you. All of us know that in time of war and occupation of foreign lands, many men will be lost, but it is hard to realize that one so close to us may be one of those. To you, his Father, we owe an everlasting debt of gratitude and the fact that men are again living in peace is due to the sacrifices made by men like your Son.

Robert was a member of this organization for ten months. His cheerful smile and willing attitude endeared him to us all. As a pilot he was a courageous man and an excellent soldier. In addition to his duties as a pilot, he also served this organization well as Squadron Communications Officer. The services that he rendered were a telling factor in the victory that is ours.

Catholic Military memorial services for your Son were held at our Base Chapel on 19<sup>th</sup> of May at 1 o'clock. The service was very well attended by fellow officers and enlisted men of this organization.

I sincerely regret that this message must carry so much grief into your home, May God give you the strength to carry on with courage, hope and faith. We shall do the same, with the full

memory of the greatness of the men who have gone before us. If there is anything we may do for you, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. BOWEN  
1<sup>st</sup>.Lt., Air Corps.  
Commanding.

405TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M)  
38TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 929

24 May 1946

Mr. Henry Mathias Lorang  
RFD Genesee, Idaho

Dear Mr. Lorang:

Prior to receiving this letter you will have undoubtedly been notified by the War Department of the death of your Son Robert. I as well as all the men in this organization wish to extend to you our deepest and most sincere sympathies. Your Son Robert was killed on a routine surveillance flight when his plane crashed into the Japan Sea on the 15th of May at 1655 Island time. The accident took place at a position 52 Nautical miles North of Ashiya Army Air Base and approximately 15 miles from the island of Mi-Shima. His body was not recovered.

This is bitter news, I know, and will bring much grief to you. All of us know that in time of war and occupation of foreign lands, many men will be lost, but it is hard to realize that one so close to us may be one of those. To you, his Father, we owe an everlasting debt of gratitude and the fact that men are again living in peace is due to the sacrifices made by men like your Son.

Robert was a member of this organization for ten months. His cheerful smile and willing attitude endeared him to us all. As a pilot he was a courageous man and an excellent soldier. In addition to his duties as a pilot, he also served this organization well as Squadron Communications Officer. The services that he rendered were a telling factor in the victory that is ours.

Catholic Military memorial services for your Son were held at our Base Chapel on 19th of May at 1 o'clock. The service was very well attended by fellow officers and enlisted men of this organization.

I sincerely regret that this message must carry so much grief into your home, May God give you the strength to carry on with courage, hope and faith. We shall do the same, with the full memory of the greatness of the men who have gone before us. If there is anything we may do for you, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely,

*Robert W. Bowen*  
ROBERT W. BOWEN  
1<sup>st</sup>.Lt., Air Corps.  
Commanding.