

DW

Tel : STONEGROVE 6361

Extn.

Correspondence on the subject of this letter should be addressed to :—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
AIR MINISTRY S. 14 (Cas.)

and should quote the reference :—

P. 440753/S. 14 (Cas.)

Your Ref.

AIR MINISTRY,

LONDON ROAD,

STANMORE,

MIDDLESEX

6¹⁴ April, 1955.



Madam,

I am directed to refer to the death of your husband, Sergeant S.A.G. Bartlett, and to inform you that a report of the circumstances in which he lost his life has now been received in the Air Ministry, and it is considered you would wish to have the available information.

On 19th February, 1955, your husband was flying as a member of the crew of a Lincoln aircraft, authorised to carry out a bombing strike. The sortie was apparently completed without incident, and on its return flight the aircraft was seen by several eye-witnesses, in the vicinity of Githunguri Police Post. It passed low over the Police Post and flew on towards the crown of a small hill. Unfortunately, the aircraft failed to clear the roofs of three huts situated on the summit and substantial portions of the fin, tailplane and starboard wing tip were torn off. The aircraft then rose to a height of about 250 feet and dived vertically into the ground, being completely destroyed. Five members of the crew were killed instantaneously, and your husband sustained the serious injuries from which he died about four hours later in the British Military Hospital, Nairobi.

The pilot of the aircraft was an experienced officer who had completed a total of 1214 flying hours, 905 of which had been on Lincoln aircraft.

Mrs. S.A.G. Bartlett,
48, Station Road,
Ramsey,
Huntingdon.

/The



WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN KENYA.

The mere mention of the word Equator immediately brings to the minds of most of us an impression of a burning sun overhead, rendering the place almost uninhabitable, but those of us sent to oppose the Mau Mau have been given an opportunity to see how wrong we were.

Eastleigh Airport, which is used by the Royal Air Force and many civilian Airlines, is situated on the eastern side of Nairobi, and is less than one hundred miles from the Equator. However, being at an altitude of 5,500 feet the temperature is about fifteen degrees less than it would be at sea level on the same latitude, and Nairobi enjoys an excellent climate on account of this. As I write this on a January afternoon the sky is cloudless, and a perfect breeze gives just the conditions we wish for now and again when on holiday at home, and at this time of the year almost every day is the same. Twice during the year there is a rainy season, each of which lasts about two months, but apart from the "Long Rains" and the "Little Rains" the wet days are negligible.

The scenery, too, is impressive. To the North are the Aberdares and Mt. Kenya, and to the South stands Mt. Killimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa; although it is 120 miles away, its "christmas pudding" top can be seen from here at sunrise and in the evening, but during the day it is usually capped by cloud. From the air the great Rift Valley can be seen, its flat desolate-looking bottom dotted with extinct volcanoes, giving it a strange, prehistoric air. But between these two topographical extremes, parts of the country are just like areas of England.

On any lengthy drive up-country, it is possible to come across a wide variety of wild life. A few miles outside Nairobi is a National Park, a comparatively small one, being some forty square miles in area, in which the animals are protected from humans. It is open during the hours of daylight to all who wish to enter "at your own risk" with a fine imposed on anyone seen leaving a car. Here can be seen lions, cheetahs, giraffe, gazelle, and in fact almost every type of animal that we see behind bars in an English zoo.

Having written of only the glories of Kenya, so far, I may give the impression that we are on holiday out here; but in actual fact the days are fairly busy. Our job is to attack the hideouts of the Mau Mau in the forests which have been declared prohibited areas for the duration of the "emergency", and this we do using 500 lb bombs, identifying the targets by means of aerial photographs.

Many days start for us with a call at 4.20.am, in order that we can attack soon after first light, which is about six o'clock all the year round in the tropics, and thereby catch our prey sleeping. After the briefing for the day's programme and the target information has been collected, the crews make their way through the darkness to the aircraft, and a few minutes later the peaceful silence of the morning is shattered.

As we pick up information over the airfield, the first tinges of light can be seen on the Eastern Horizon. A few minutes later the first rays catch the snow covered tips of the highest mountains, and the native huts look like mushrooms in the half light. By the time we reach the edge of the forest on the mountain slopes it is daylight, and with quick reference to the map and photographs the bomb aimer picks out his target; the bomb doors are opened, the release pressed, and a few thousand pounds of high explosive drop away.

It may sound rather murderous, making such attacks on a seemingly defenceless party of natives in the forests, but the Mau Mau is a vile cruel organisation, as can be appreciated from the reports that we get of the attacks made on white people; unfortunately, there seems to be no other way of putting an end to it, other than killing the terrorists before they can cripple the life of Kenya.

In forwarding this information I am to express the
Department's deep sympathy with you in your bereavement.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

M. C. Cabbe

From:- Group Captain R.A.C. Carter, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F.



Royal Air Force Upwood,
Ramsey,
Huntingdonshire

20th February, 1955

Dear Mrs. Bartlett,

It is with deep regret that I write to confirm the sad news which has been sent to you by telegram that your husband 3031978 Sergeant Stanley Albert George Bartlett lost his life in Kenya on the 19th February 1955.

I have very little information at the moment and am waiting for further details from the Squadron in Kenya. All that has been reported so far is that the aircraft in which your husband was flying crashed on returning from operations, and all the crew lost their lives.

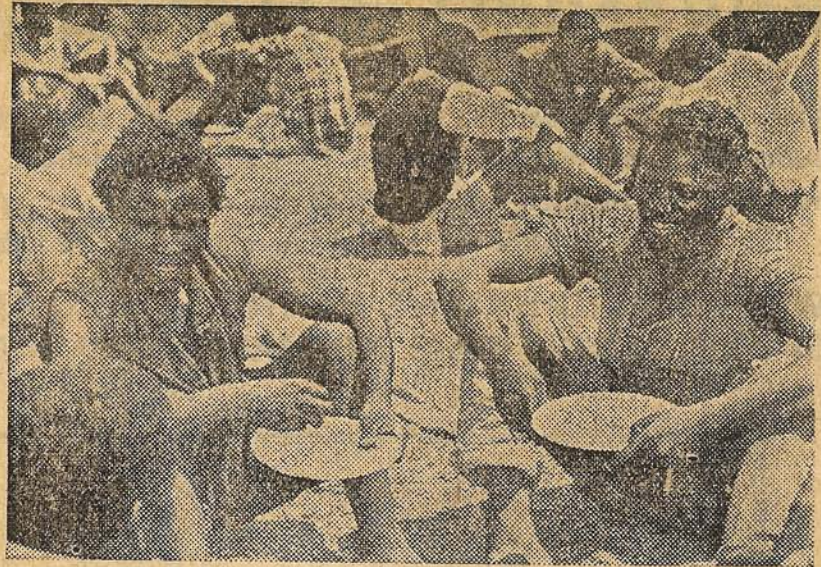
Stanley's friends with No. 49 Squadron and indeed all of us here at Upwood will miss him greatly. Please accept my profound sympathy in your great loss; do not hesitate to let me know if there is any way in which I can be of help.

Yours most sincerely

R.A.C. Carter

Mrs. B.J. Bartlett,
2, The Pines,
Hendon Road,
Bordon,
Hants.

ANDU AYA A
MAU MAU
NIMAHONOKETIE
MIOYO
YAO



Nimeneanite na mari thiini wa kambi kuria Thika. Nimonete kuna ati Thirikari nihingagia kiiraniro kiayo. Maticirithitio na nimekiitwo maundu mega na makaheo irio wega, na amwe aria maari aruaru kana agurarie nimathondeketwo ni marigitari.

Andu aria meneanite moimite thiini wa ikundi nyingi mwanya mwanya cia imaramari kundu na kundu thiini wa bururi. Thoma uria amwe ao moigite.

ALPHONSE WA NG'ANG'A uria weneanire kuria **KISEMET** thiini wa bururi wa Ukabi oigire—

“Ndaari Mucirithania uria munene wa Igoti ria Mau Mau na ndetagwo Karinini. Ndeneanire tondu nindaamenyire na ma ati Mau Mau niniine.”

MWANGI WA KIURU uria weneanire kuri **MUTHUNGU WA CAMBA** kuria Kinangop oigire—

“Ndeneanire tondu ciiraniro njeru niciponekaga iri cia ma. Ndaari na ng'aragu na nindakoragwo ngiteng'erio handu ha mieri miingi ni Mbutu cia Thayu. Miikarire yari ya thina thiini wa mititu.”

KURIA WA GATHERU uria weneanire kuri **OBITHA UMWE WA WATHANI** kuria giikaro-ini kia Humungati kia Muguga thiini wa Kiambu oigire—

“Nindaguraritio mieri kenda ihitukite na ndaari o na mburuburu thiini wa mwiri wakwa. Ndaari na ruuo ruingi no riu nindineanite na nithondeketwo ni rigitari na riu ndi mwega.”

MWANGI WA KUMUNGA uria weneanire kuri **HUMUNGATI AGIKUYU** kuria Gatuaiini thiini wa Nyeri oigire—

“Ndeneanire giikaro-ini kia Humungati na nindaamukiiruo wega. Thirikari niyahingirie uria yanjiiriire. Ndiri ndacoka kuhuta.”

BERNARD WA BENEDETO uria weneanire kuri **BIRITHI** kuria giikaro-ini kia Birithi gia Kibuti thiini wa Embu oigire—

“Baba niaanyonirie ati mbaara ino ni ya ukigu. Hatiri na gitumi gia kugayania andu a ruriri ruitu na utoi. Niaanyonirie uria ingihonokia muoyo wakwa.”

NJOROGE WA KAMAU uria weneanire kuri **HUMUNGATI AGIKUYU KURIA KAGUNOINE** thiini wa Fort Hall oigire—

“Ndaari muheani wa muuma thiini wa Rithabu. Ndeneanire tondu nindonire ati ndingahotire gucoka kuona irio na gwa guikara kuuma kuri arata akwa na andu a nyumba iitu. Nimaambiriirie kuumena tondu wa thina uria ndaamareheire.”

TABARIRA KWINEANA UMUTHI

KIIRANIRO GITANGIAGA KUHINGIO

Andu aingi nimeneanite. Mutoi o wothe o na angikoruo ari uriku o na kana akoruo ekite undu uriku mbere ya muthi wa 18 wa Januari aahota kuhonokia muoyo wake na atigane na mathina na ugwati, tondu Thirikari niiraniire ati aria othe mekwineana matingicirithirio mahitia ma Mau Mau maria mekire mbere ya muthenya ucio.

WINEANE RIU HAMWE NA INDO CIAKU CIA MBAARA. UNGIKUUA ITHI-GI RIIGU ANDU OTHE NO MAMENYE ATI NIURENEANA NA NIUKUONA THAYU



MWIGITO WA KWIHONOKIA UKINEANA

Ungikoruo wonia mundu o wothe wa Mbutu cia Ugitiri Bathi ino, niekumenya urenda kwineana na niegugutuga kuringana na kiiraniro giki kieru.

THE BEARER OF THIS PASS WISHES TO SURRENDER. He is to be given fair treatment, food, and medical attention if required. He will be detained but he is **NOT** to be prosecuted for any offence connected with the Emergency which he may have committed prior to 18th January, 1955.

UYU UKUUTE "BATHI" ino arenda kwineana. Niatugwo wega, aheo irio na arigitwo angikoruo ni abatairio niguo. Ahingiruo na ndagacirithio ni undu wa uuru o wothe wa Mau Mau uria ekire mbere ya January 18, mwaka wa 1955.

ANAYEBEBA BARUA HII ANATAKA KUJITOLEA. Mpe msaada mwema, chakula, na atibiwe ikiwa anahitaji. Atafungiwa lakini hatashtakiwa kwa ajili ya uovu wo wote wa Mau Mau alicofanya mbele ya January 18, mwaka huu wa 1955.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE ERSKINE,
Commander-in-Chief.

SIR EVELYN BARING,
Governor.

Charges to pay

s. d.

RECEIVED

POST



OFFICE

TELEGRAM

No. 75

OFFICE STAMP



Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

At 9.45 A.m

From VE

By

1.25 am London Ldn Telex
Priority Cc.

At m

To

By

Mrs Bartlett 48 Station Rd
Ramsey Huntingdon

192200Z. IN Our Ministry London.
Unclass 8699/Res Clerk Feb. 194.
Deeply regret to inform you a
report has been received saying
that your husband S.A.C. Bartlett
3031978

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope

B or C

Charges to pay

.....s.d.

RECEIVED

POST  OFFICE
TELEGRAM

No. *X*
OFFICE STAMP



Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

At *9.45A* m

From *PE*

By *X*

At

To

By

was killed this afternoon
when his aircraft crashed
in Kenya. Letter follows stop

The Air Council express their
profound sympathy stop.
U.S. of S. 1922007.

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope

B or C