

Koch 6/2/44

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Dear Lord Londonderry,

I am writing this short letter to you and handing it in a sealed blank envelope to my adjutant, to be opened and delivered to you if I should fail to return from a sortie.

For nearly two years now I have had the feeling that one day or night I shall be knocked down, and although myself I am not afraid, I do feel my responsibilities.

The morning you tried to persuade me to take you on a raid, I decided at that moment, that when my son was born, I should invite you to be his God father, as I felt confident that you would do all in your power to help and advise Dorothy as to my son's future.

Financially Dorothy is safe, although I have no money, my pension plus the small income that Dorothy has will be sufficient to look after them both, anyhow it is my wish that Dorothy should marry again, in which case she will have nothing to worry about. My other wish is that Nicholas should be educated at my old school "Framlingham College" or some other similar school which is not considered expensive. On leaving school at no more than 17½ years, he should be sent abroad for a period of at least three years, with an allowance sufficient only to keep him if that is necessary, no more than £100 per year. At the end of that period I should like him to return to this Country, and join the Royal Air Force and endeavour to obtain a permanent commission. Under no circumstances should his hand be forced if he wishes to remain overseas for good, he may do so, but he is to be given no financial assistance whatsoever and after reaching 21 years his allowance shall cease.

I am not informing Dorothy of my intentions regarding Nicholas, but should like you to communicate with her immediately I am posted as missing.

My adjutant has instructions to communicate with you should this occur and he also has instructions to open the sealed envelope and will find this addressed to you.

Should on the other hand, I be taken prisoner, I would like you to do all you can for Dorothy and the baby, but under

no circumstances are you to help financially, Dorothy has instructions regarding this matter.

My chances of being taken alive are remote as I always carry a revolver and intend fighting it out. If you hear I am a prisoner, it will be because either I am too badly injured to fight, or because I funk'd it.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for what you have done for me, and also to inform you that I have every confidence in you carrying out my instructions. Finally I cannot speak too highly of bomber command, particularly the men who are least mentioned, the wireless ops. and the gunners, their risks are greater than anyones, yet they are the least rewarded.

Good Luck,

Charles Pickard.