

Heinz Witkopp

4790 Paderborn, den 14.4.1993  
Hochstiftstr. 35

Mr Melvin Brown  
14, Ditchingham Close  
Hartwell  
Aylesbury  
Bucks.

England

Dear Mr Brown,

Firstly let me thank you for the photos and your letter of 20.3.93. It is quite a surprise to be reminded of a painful event, the death of a beloved brother in the war, after so many years.

My brother, Hans, was the third of five children. Our father was a teacher in Jakobsberg near Hoxter. When my father died we moved with our mother to Paderborn in Westfalia. That was in 1939. Paderborn is known for its "Senne"-a military training camp on the Luneburg heath.

My brother Hans was a very keen glider pilot, and each weekend he went to Orlinghausen about 50km from Paderborn to practise this skill- and that was on his bike!

When war broke out he volunteered for the Luftwaffe in the hope of getting pilots training. To his disappointment, however, he was assigned to the post of radio-operator, as he was an electrician by profession and had already an element of radio-training in gliders.

My brother was greatly loved by us all. He was a cheerful and ever-helpful young man with lots of friends. His best friend, a fellow glider, was shot down and fatally injured in the last week of the war over Southern Germany. Shortly before his last flight he visited us on leave. I remember that he left us with a heavy heart. He was well aware that many of his squadron had already left on missions never to return. He also knew that this trend was worsening.

I enclose some photos, Mr Brown, to give you some idea. Should any specific queries arise from my letter, do not hesitate to write. In closing I'd like to ask if you know where my brothers grave is? If one exists, my wife and I would like to visit it.

With best wishes,

Heinz Witkopp

P.S. I'll send the photos after my holiday.