

My dear Ruth,

I was stunned when I received your letter today. It never occurred to me, when I received the news that George was missing, that the same might have happened to your Howard.

George talked about Howard, Dan, & Benny all the time, but I was under the impression that George wasn't flying with them. George wrote me every day but he never told me much about his flying or his work.

I don't have to tell you what a shock all this has been. I felt that it would never happen to us.

I received the telegram Feb 23rd the same day you did & it said

Sunday & told me she had had a letter from Joe saying that he was on that raid with George, & that he saw the entire crew parachute. When he got back to his base he checked with some of the other fellows & they all agreed that they saw ten parachutes open. It was such wonderful news I nearly went crazy with joy & relief. I don't know anything more than that Ruth, but I have a feeling George & Howard were together. They'll come back to us someday, I know. It's going to be hard to sit here & wait for news, but we've got to be as brave as our husbands are, and have faith and trust in them & God.

It had no further information but it was a very nice letter & encouraging.

George's last letter was written Feb. 6th. He had completed his 13th mission that day, and was really planning on coming home soon.

He had been on raids nine days in a row, and his letters were very short those last few days. He was so tired and worn out.

Oh, Ruth, I feel so terrible when I think of the lonely days ahead. I know how hard it will be for you & I wish there was something I could do to help you.

If I hear anything more I'll let you know immediately. Will you please do the same?

& find out about Dan.

George told me to write to
Major Stanko, if anything like that
should happen, & I did the night
of the notice.

Please take care of yourself now.
I'll remember Howard in my prayers
every day. There are so many things
that I want to say, but I can't find
the words.

Love always
Helen

They'll come back to us.