

Richard Smith
Royal Air Force

John Smith
(December 5th 1940)

Dear father,

I hope that you don't suffer too much where you are, the fight must be very difficult. I needed to talk to you about all that happened over these past few months. You know, I didn't understand what it meant when the war was declared, I was thought that nothing would change, but I was wrong, of course.

First our house, our home that I used to love so much was destroyed by the Luftwaffe, I think I have never known so much pain in my life. All the things we needed, loved... all gone in one second... As you surely know it, the government has decided to send all the children to the country side after the first bombings. We also had to leave, and after you, I lost mum, I miss her so much. Just before we took the train, Elena started to cry, I couldn't make her stop, it's horrible. She doesn't laugh anymore, whereas she was always smiling. I didn't cry, I couldn't, for her, but you know Daddy, it's hard to be brave for two, but I have to, you asked me to, I remember, the day you left. At night when I watch the sky, I think of you, I think that maybe you are somewhere out there, and that you fight. When this happens, I pray for you, I

don't want you to die in this stupid conflict
Dad!

Don't worry, the people who foster us are nice, a
bit old and boring, but they care about us. Please
Dad, win this war and bring us back to
London and to mum, it's too difficult to be far
from both of you.

I miss you, answer me back if you can, maybe
Elena will smile again that way...

Your son who loves you,

John.

P.S.: I have found your wedding photograph in the
dust, in the room of our house. I keep it with
me to sleep and to always have you with me. Do
you want it or can we keep it? It really helps
us...