

31667. 2/Lt. K.H. Hume,  
H.Q. 9. Inf. Bde.  
2.N.Z.E.F.

30.5.41.

Dear Mum and Dad,

Ever since we joined up, I have hoped that this letter would not have to be written ; since it had to be, I wish it was Jock writing it instead of me.

I received word this morning that our Jock was killed in action near Malemi aerodrome in Crete last Wednesday afternoon, May 21st. After German parachutists had captured the 'drome, Jock's two guns were ordered to shell it and while doing so, they were machinegunned from the air by Nazi planes. Most of his crew became casualties, and Jock was killed outright, being shot through the head. Capt. Sneddon, his troop commander, may write to you and give you more details but this will depend on whether he himself gets out of Crete. Anyway, he was the one who fixed things up afterwards.

This news comes from two of Jock's men who are just back wounded in hospital.. Naturally the details are few, but I'll find out all I can and pass it on from time to time. You may have already received official advice from the War Office. I would have cabled, but they wont permit it at this end. However, I sent word to Murray from which he probably drew the correct conclusion.

I told Stuart Wilson and Pat Hilson this morning and both were naturally very upset. Needless to say, so was Heather.

I can only finish by saying that Jock died fighting his guns, which is the best way a soldier can go. His men cannot speak too highly of his coolness and courage and I hope this will help you and Dad to bear the great loss which I know you will feel.

Your loving son,

KEITH.