

87C

S.S.U. No. 1.

WHADDON,

Bletchley, Bucks.

15th September, 1941.

My dear Blackford,

It was grand to see you at our country home. You were kind enough to say that you would help us over two matters.

In March of this year you arranged the attachment of 82686 - P/O M.T. Whinney, to 14 O.T.U., Cranfield, for special duties and since April he has been "on loan" to this Unit with the connivance of the Air Ministry. Central Flying School have now requested his attachment for an Instructors' War course and we are in danger of losing his services at the most vital period of our work.

We are, as you know, engaged in air to ground experiments which are now approaching completion. P/O Whinney has done all the flying and by private arrangement taken a conversion course and a 'blind approach' course to equip him for operational work on a Wellington which is at the moment having our secret equipment installed.

You will appreciate how absolutely necessary it is to have the right type of pilot for this work, having in mind the real work of the organisation and the imperative need for security and secrecy. P/O Whinney is an ex-member of S.I.S. staff: he is an excellent pilot and a man of complete discretion. He has studied closely the problem attendant upon our operations and it would be a great tragedy if we lost his services now, when we are on the verge of producing a really workable air to ground espionage communication system.

If you can arrange it I think the best way would be to second Whinney to the Foreign Office for special duties with the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant. His pay and allowances would, of course, be borne from F.O. funds and not the R.A.F.

The other matter relates to the personnel required in order that we may carry out the proposed operations with the Wellington aircraft which has been allocated to us and has been fitted with our secret apparatus.

Cont..

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The requirement is for :-

- 1 Corporal
- 1 L.A.C.
- ✓ 2 Fitters or riggers - all trained on Wellingtons.
- 1 Wireless electrical mechanic.

It seems necessary to devise an establishment on which these men may be carried. I have not spoken to Fred Winterbottom but it may be that A.I.c's establishment could be expanded, though I would rather hold them on an independent flight if you can be so kind as to arrange it.

The question of crew can be left until the flight is agreed.

Yours very sincerely,

NAW  
WLOP

Sgt Capt. W.O.M. • Mantel-Dang  
attached & 4 found w/ ops

Air Commodore D.L. Blackford,  
Air Ministry,  
King Charles Street,  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

1566 in Research  
1566

2 flight mechanics E  
2 flight mechanics A  
1 U.E.M.  
1 Corporal Site IIE  
1 WO. element a WRE IIA