

Monkshood
East Haulsey
Northallerton

Yorks. June 8th 1937

My dear Jimmy,

Thank you very much for your letter. I haven't the foggiest idea where I buried those tins, I think one was at the foot of a eucalyptus about half way along the right hand fence as you look out on the playing fields. You will probably get a beating for spoiling the trees!

I am going to Germany on the 26th of this month. I have been chosen as one of ten to represent England at the International Sliding Contests at the Wasserkuppe.

We have got some lovely sailplanes but I have no photos to send you, which is a pity. The newest one wouldn't come out of a spin easily and the team was going to be withdrawn. Shingsby, who makes

the sailplanes, put a new rudder on and I did some tests, as a result of which we are going after all. I am awfully pleased I was able to do the tests successfully because a withdrawal would have looked bad for us and for poor Slingsby.

One of our King Kites was damaged a bit during a demonstration at York of aero towing, but Slingsby said that when it had been mended it would be at my disposal until he packs it up for transport to Germany on the 22nd. On Empire Air Day I was towed by aeroplane to Thonaby and Catterick. I cast off at 3000 feet in each case and took about 20 minutes to reach the ground.

when we get a North wind and
nice puffy clouds, I am going to
be towed up by an aeroplane and
after casting off I am going to
head South to see if I can get
down to the Channel. It will be
quite easy if the clouds last all
the way. The King Kite will cruise
at any speed between 40 and 50 mph
without losing much height, which
is very useful for cross country
work, because the ground speed is
roughly 70 mph. when going
down wind. I have found a
postcard of her, the photo was taken
at York. The flaps are down as
you can see, to make her glide
sheeply white coming in to land.
She has a sort of glass house that
shuts in the cockpit completely
so one is very cozy — too warm
sometimes. We wear parachutes,
the machines are very strong, so
we feel quite confident about putting
up a good show, even though we don't

hope to win something big in Germany.

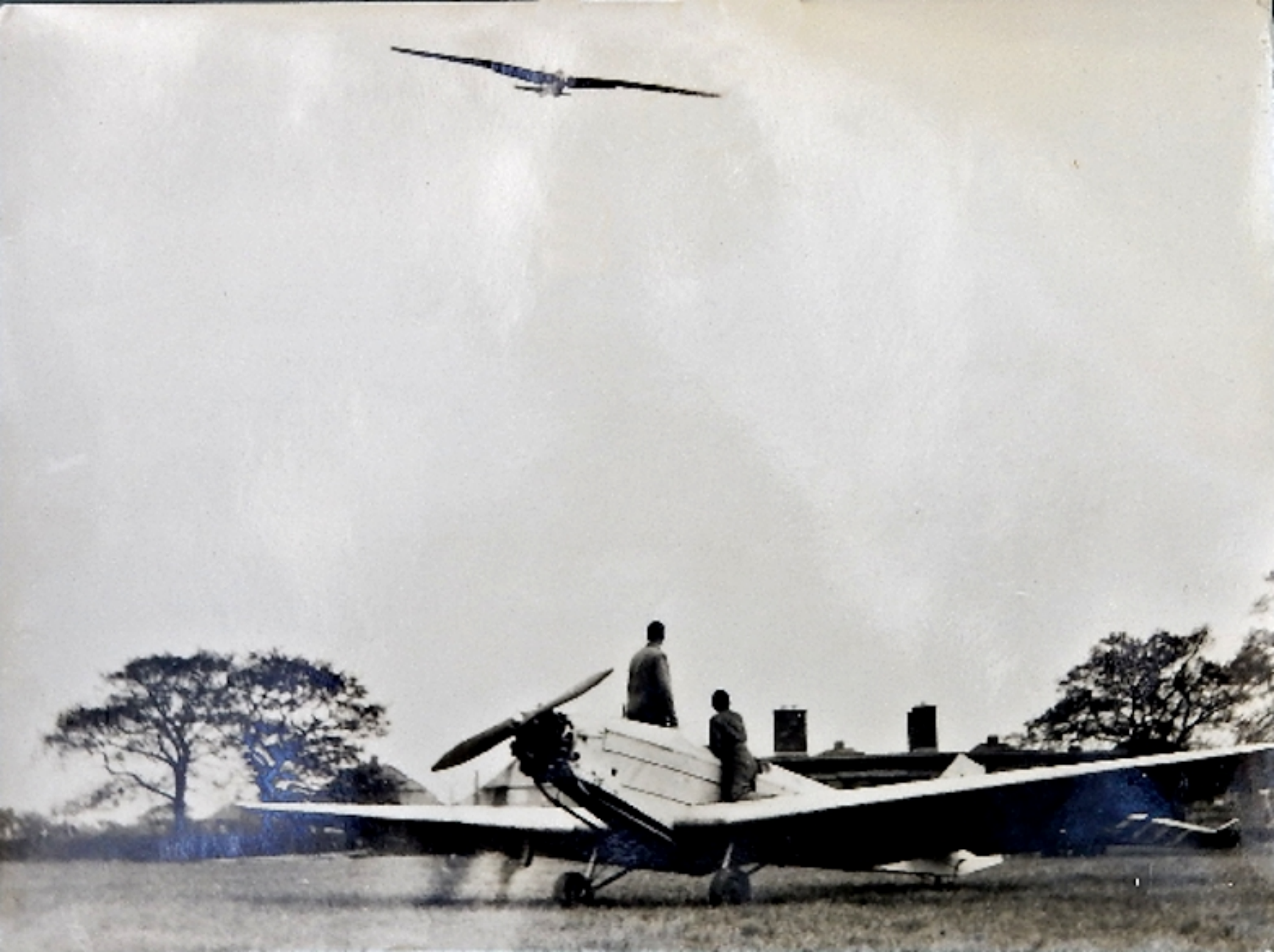
I hear you have done pretty well in boxing, which is good - I never did much good at it myself, chiefly through lack of confidence I think. The last time I was in the ring was at Cranwell, boxing for B Squadron, when I got knocked out chasing the man across the ring. He flung a fist out behind him and caught me in just the right place! Your niece has had a bit of a set-back, but is improving now.

I think she is going to be quite pretty later on. Of course she has every chance, judging by her parents.

Good night Jimmy, write again when you have the time, and tell us what you are doing.

With love from us three

Percy.



POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS ONLY

Northern Echo Copyright photo.

KING KITE, made by
Shingsby, Russell, & Brown, of
Kirbymoorside, Yorkshire,
about 25 miles South of Thornaby.
Weights 450 pounds empty,
Wing span 51 feet, Wing area
140 square feet. Best gliding
speed 42 m.p.h., Sinking speed
2 feet 8 inches per second.
Fitted with flaps to steepen the glide.
Stalling speed about 35 m.p.h.

ENVY?