

Angus Walter RUFFHEAD

89397, Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), Royal Air Force
died Thursday 6th January 1944.

Memorial Book text:

Home address was Church Street, Olney. Son of Mr & Mrs B Ruffhead, both deceased.

Photograph kindly supplied by Mr Claude Ruffhead, living near Hereford (formerly of Olney and who served in the Royal Artillery)

1940 – Pilot Officer RAF. No location given.

1941 – RAF Headquarters, Middle East Forces.

1942 – Flying Officer. Same unit.

1943 – Flight Lieut. Officers Mess, 125 Airfield, RAF Detling, Kent.

1944 – Reported “missing”.

Subsequently known to have been killed in aerial combat over Boulogne. Information from Commonwealth War Graves Commission – Interred in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France (FR184) Plot 11, Row B, Grave 19 – date of death 6 January, 1944.



Additional information:

[3] Royal Air Force Fighter Command Losses of the Second World War. Volume 3. Operational Losses: Aircraft and Crews 1944-1945

p12: 6th January 1944. 184 Sqn. Hurricane IV KZ378. F/Lt A W Ruffhead (k). Rhubarb against Noball target, pm. Hit by flak over Le Touquet. Buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery. [F/Sgt J F Andrew also of 184 Sqn was shot down and killed on the same mission, and is buried in the same cemetery. A third Hurricane was severely damaged by the flak and crash-landed near Lympne.]

184 Squadron ORB [AIR 27/1138]: Hurricane IV's at Detling

Daily Diary Entries:

5th January 1944.

8 aircraft led by F/Lt RUFFHEAD airborne at 14.05 hrs to attack Noball target No.40 with 8 x 60lb RP's Rendevous with 8 Typhoons of 181 Squadron, 10 miles SW of Berk OK. 8 aircraft attacked and hits of 6 were seen in the target area. Two of 181's fighter Typhoons escorted the Squadron back. Flak (light) again from target area, but it was inaccurate and no aircraft were hit. Landed 15.30 hrs.

6th January 1944.

8 aircraft led by F/Lt RUFFHEAD airborne at 09.10 hrs to attack Noball target No.28 with 8 x 60lb RP's Rendevous with 8 Typhoons No.181 Squadron. Recalled before reaching Dungeness.

4 aircraft led by F/Lt RUFFHEAD airborne at 13.50 hrs to carry out Rhubarb attack on Noball target No.54 with 8 x 60lb RP's. Sections made landfall at Le Touquet and leader orbited 360° to enter coast 2 miles north of Le Touquet peninsular. They were met by an intense barrage of accurate light flak, 20mm and 40mm. F/Lt Ruffhead was hit directly and was seen by P/O Carr and W/O Sellors to dive straight into the sand dunes in flames. P/O Carr carried on and found himself alone, so he turned back through flak and came back to base pancaking at 15.10 hrs with no flak hits on his aircraft. W/O Sellors was hit in various places going through flak area and had a large hole shot out of his tail plane. He considered pancaking in enemy territory, but decided to chance getting back. He was hit again going through flak area, but got back pancaking but at Lympne, wheels down but aircraft Cat.B at 14.50 hrs. F/Sgt Andrew was last seen by W/O Sellors doing a steep turn in an evasive manner, and has not been seen or heard of since.

Monthly Diary Summary:

[Immediately after this incident a new Wing drill was decided for Ramrods involving the co-operation of 181 and 184 Squadrons].

One piece of good news to relieve the gloom. XI/4/40 as a result of our efforts is now considered by the authorities to have been put out of action. Good show 184.