

Angelini, Samuel
Flying Officer
Royal Canadian Air Force
439 Squadron
J37114



Samuel 'Sam' Angelini was born on May 12, 1922 in Hamilton, Ontario to Italian immigrants, Alexander and Carmela (nee Seno) Angelini. He had four brothers: Lawrence, John, Lewis and James and three sisters: Phyllis, Vera and Caroline. The family was Roman Catholic. They lived at 195 Park Street North in Hamilton.

He went to St. Augustine Sep. School in Hamilton from 1928 till 1935. After that he studied Senior Matriculation at Cathedral High School in Hamilton until 1940.

Sam spoke English fluently. He stood 5'5" tall and had brown eyes and black hair. He was an assistant theatre manager at Capitol and Tivoli Theatres in Hamilton when he enlisted with the RCAF August 15, 1942.


THIS PERMIT MUST BE CARRIED BY OPERATOR			
MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION PERMIT			
1941		Nº 24386Z	
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO			
T. B. McQUESTEN, MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS			
<small>ISSUED PURSUANT TO PART XII OF THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT. THIS PERMIT EXPIRES 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF ISSUE</small>			
SIGNATURE OF OPERATOR	<i>Samuel Angelini</i>		SEE OTHER SIDE
NAME	Samuel Angelini		SEX M
STREET AND NUMBER	195 Park St. N.		
POST OFFICE	Hamilton		AGE 19
COUNTY	Went	Can.	HEIGHT 5'7"
L.23.	OFFICE Nº 4	DATED June 7	COUNTERSIGNED <i>McKeel</i> REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLES

He got his drivers license on June 7, 1941.

Sam trained at No. 5 ITS, Belleville, Ontario. From there he went to #10 EFTS in Pendleton, Ontario.

He received his Wings at #8 SFTS Moncton, NB. He was sent to #1 OTU in Bagotville, Quebec.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

	Name ANGELINI SAMUEL	R-186092
	Rank AC2	R. C. A. F.
Age 20	Height 5'5"	Weight 145
Hair BLACK	Eyes BROWN	Hair on face MEDIUM
Marks, scars, etc. NONE VISIBLE		
Signature of holder: <i>S. Angelini</i>		(Signature of holder)
Signature of issuer: <i>J. G. [unclear]</i>		(Signature of issuer)
Place No 1st DEPOT, TORONTO	Date SEPTEMBER 27/42	
Card serial number 174487		

RANK	POSTED TO	DATE
AC2	No. 5 I.T.S. Belleville Ont.	8-1-43
L.A.C.	#10 E.F.T.S. Pendleton, Ont.	APR 30/43
L.A.C.	#8 S.F.T.S. MONCTON, N.B.	30/5/43
P/O	#1 - O.T.U. BAGOTVILLE, P.Q.	30/10/43

He was awarded his Pilot's Flying Badge and his commission on October 15, 1943.

He was appointed Flying Officer on April 15, 1944 and embarked overseas on May 25, 1944. In November 1944, he was taken on strength with 439 Squadron. He was described as a reserved, calm and confident airman. He had experience flying the Harvard, Battle, Hurricane and Typhoon.



Based in Holland, Sam Angelini was killed on January 1, 1945 when upon returning from an armed recce, his flight encountered between fifteen and twenty German aircraft, engaging in a dogfight. The dog-fight lasted four or five minutes, resulting in F/O Laurence and F/O Fraser each destroying two aircraft. When the action broke off, the aircraft returned to base to find it unserviceable due to enemy action and had to go to Volkel where they landed and were refueled.

However, F/O Angelini in Typhoon MN589, was missing and was last heard of in the circuit telling 'Pitchdark' he had 10 gallons of fuel left. It was assumed that he was attacked by unknown enemy aircraft and was not able to outrun or outmaneuver them.

He was subsequently found still in his burned out bullet ridden cockpit near Rips, Holland. He had had 14 sorties under his belt. He had not flown since December 5th as he had been in England waiting for the weather to improve so he could fly his Typhoon back to the Squadron.

His wife received the sad message from the Squadron Leader R.G. Corsby

COPY FOR H.Q. OTTAWA

J37 F/O Angelini S.

(NUMBER) (RANK) (NAME)

439 R.C.A.F. Squadron,
R.C.A.F. Overseas.

January 6, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Angelini:

By this time you will have received word that your husband Flying Officer S. Angelini was killed in action on January 1, 1945. It is my sad duty as his Commanding Officer to write to tell you the circumstances surrounding his death.

"Sam" as he was known to the squadron, was out with three other aircraft on a reconnaissance flight. On their return, they ran into about twenty enemy fighters who were returning from an attack on Allied territory. In spite of the odds and in spite of their being short of fuel, they immediately attacked the enemy and during the ensuing "dog-fight", our aircraft were split up. Later, the other pilots heard Sam say on the radio that he was short of fuel and was returning to base immediately. He never arrived, however, and later he was found in his crashed aircraft which had evidently been shot down by an enemy fighter he had not seen. Although the other three shot down four of the enemy, it is not known whether or not Sam accounted for any.

Sam joined our squadron on November 11th and although he seemed rather quiet at first, he soon became one of the most popular members and no squadron was complete without him. He was a good pilot and I could always rely on him to do his duty no matter how difficult. With a little more experience, he would have made an excellent leader.

Owing to the fact that under present conditions communications take considerable time, I had to arrange the funeral without consulting you. You will, I am sure, understand the necessity of this action and I sincerely trust that the arrangements we were able to make were such as you would have wished.

Your husband's funeral took place at Eindhoven, Holland, and the body interred in the Canadian plot in a nearby cemetery. The service was conducted by our Roman Catholic Padre, Father Michaud, who will be writing to you shortly to give you the details. Photographs were taken and I will see that they are sent as soon as possible.

You will wish to know that all war graves are cared for by the Imperial War Graves Commission which will erect a temporary wooden cross pending the provision by them of a more permanent memorial.

20 JAN 1945

Your husband's effects have been gathered together and forwarded to the Royal Air Force Central Depository who will send them on to the Administrator of Estates, Ottawa, from whom you will receive word in due course.

May I now extend the deepest sympathy of the entire squadron in your sad loss. I should like also to assure you how greatly his comrades in the R.C.A.F. admire the unselfish sacrifice your husband has made so far from home.

In closing, I should like to ask you to feel quite free to write me if there is anything at all that I can do or anything else you want to know. To do something for Sam would be a pleasure, as he was not only one of my pilots, he was one of my friends.

Yours very sincerely,



(R.G. Crosby) Squadron Leader,
Officer Commanding,
439 R.C.A.F. Squadron.

Sam was married to Gertrude and together, they had a daughter, Mary Elizabeth who was born on February 10, 1945, six weeks after Sam was killed. Gertrude wrote a letter to the RCAF and requested that Sam's clothing to be donated to the Squadron or to the poor people in Holland.

He was first buried in Woensel, Plot SS, Grave 11. On November 12, 1945 he was reburied to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **XV. D. 7.**



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Biography: Anne Gafiuk, www.thetyphoonproject.org for Faces to Graves.

Sources:

Library and Archives Canada

Commonwealth War Graves Commission