


COPY FOR H.Q. OTTAWA

J3  *S. Angelini*
(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.

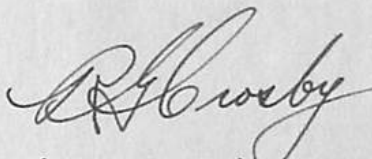
20 JAN 1945

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.

20 JAN 1945