

GEOFFREY NORMAN RACKLEY

This tribute is to Pilot Officer 178006 Geoffrey Norman RACKLEY who was killed in action on the 22nd June 1944 while serving with RAF 619 Squadron.

Born on the 27th October 1921 he was the son of Henry and Hilda Rackley of Claygate, Surrey.



Pilot Officer GEOFFREY NORMAN RACKLEY

The 1921 census shows the family living at 2 Ryhth Bridge Cottage, Hare Lane, Claygate. The census being done just prior to Normans birth.

The 1939 Registry shows Henry, Hilda and Geoffrey as living at 10 Hare Lane, Claygate, Surrey. Geoffrey has listed as his occupation an electrical transformer.

As a result of having a quantity of airgraphs we know that in 1942 he was sent to South Africa where he was trained as a navigator. We know that he spent time at 44 Air Training School at Grahamstown, South Africa and 48 Air Training School at Woodbrook East London, South Africa.

This was not unusual as thousands of aircrew were trained all around the Empire.

From April 1944 to September 1944, 619 Squadron was based at RAF Dunholme Lodge in Lincolnshire.

He died on the 22 June 1944, aged 22, when his Lancaster ND986 PG-S was shot down on a mission to attack a synthetic oil plant at Wesseling in Germany killing all seven crew members.

The aircraft was hit by flak and crashed into the River Rhine between a road bridge and a rail bridge at Duisburg.

He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany.



His gravestone reads: No More Sorrow, No More Weeping, No More Pain

Telephone No.: GERRARD 9234
Trunk Calls and
Telegraphic Address: "AIR MINISTRY," LONDON
P419039/3/P4.A2.

AIR MINISTRY,
(Casualty Branch),
73-77 OXFORD STREET,
LONDON, W.1.
16 November, 1944.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to inform you that they have with great regret to confirm the telegram in which you were notified that your son, Pilot Officer Geoffrey Norman Rackley, Royal Air Force, is believed to have lost his life as the result of the air operations on the night of 21st/22nd June, 1944.

The Committee's telegram, quoting official German information, states that your son was killed on 22nd June. It contains no information regarding the place of his burial.

Although there is unhappily little reason to doubt the accuracy of this report, the casualty will be recorded as "missing believed killed" until confirmed by further evidence, or until, in the absence of such evidence, it becomes necessary, owing to lapse

H. Rackley, Esq.,
10, Hare Lane,
Claygate,
Surrey.

/of

Letter from the Air Ministry dated November 1944 giving notice to his father that their son was "missing believed killed".

Reference P.419039/3/P.4.B.7.

NOTIFICATION OF DEATH

CERTIFIED that according to the records of this department

No. 178006 Rank Pilot Officer

Name Geoffrey Norman RACKLEY,

Service Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve,

was reported missing and is presumed, for official purposes, to have

lost his life on the twenty-second day of June, 1944,

as the result of air operations

Information received through the

International Red Cross Committee states that

this ^{officer}
~~airman~~ is buried in Grave No. 467, Field IIIC, in the Military

Cemetery at Dusseldorf, Germany.

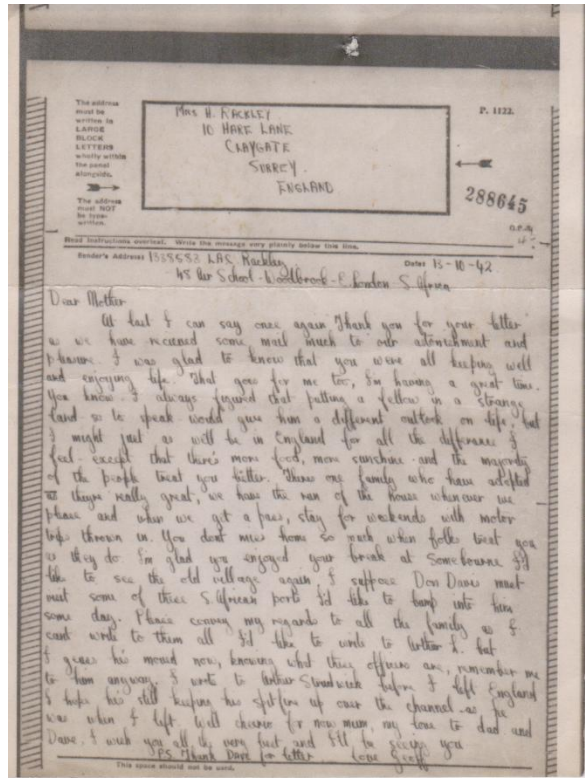
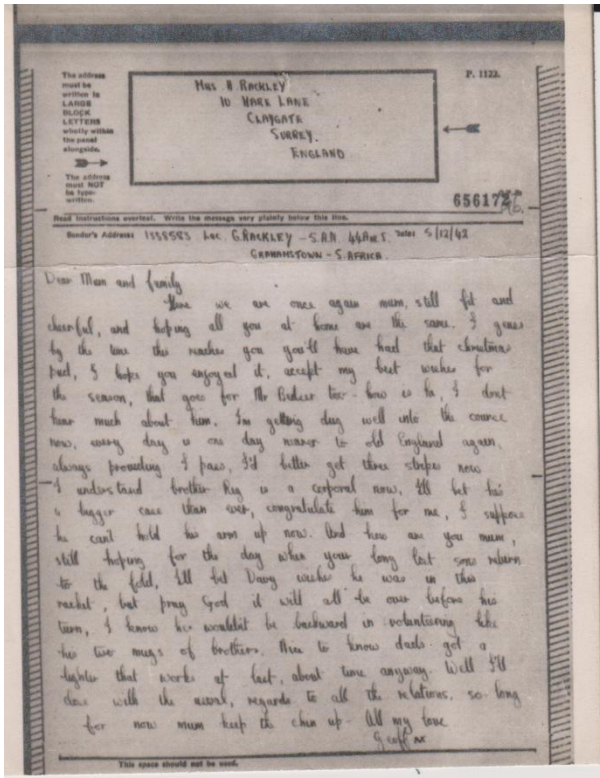
John Campbell

Squadron Leader,
for Director of Personal Services

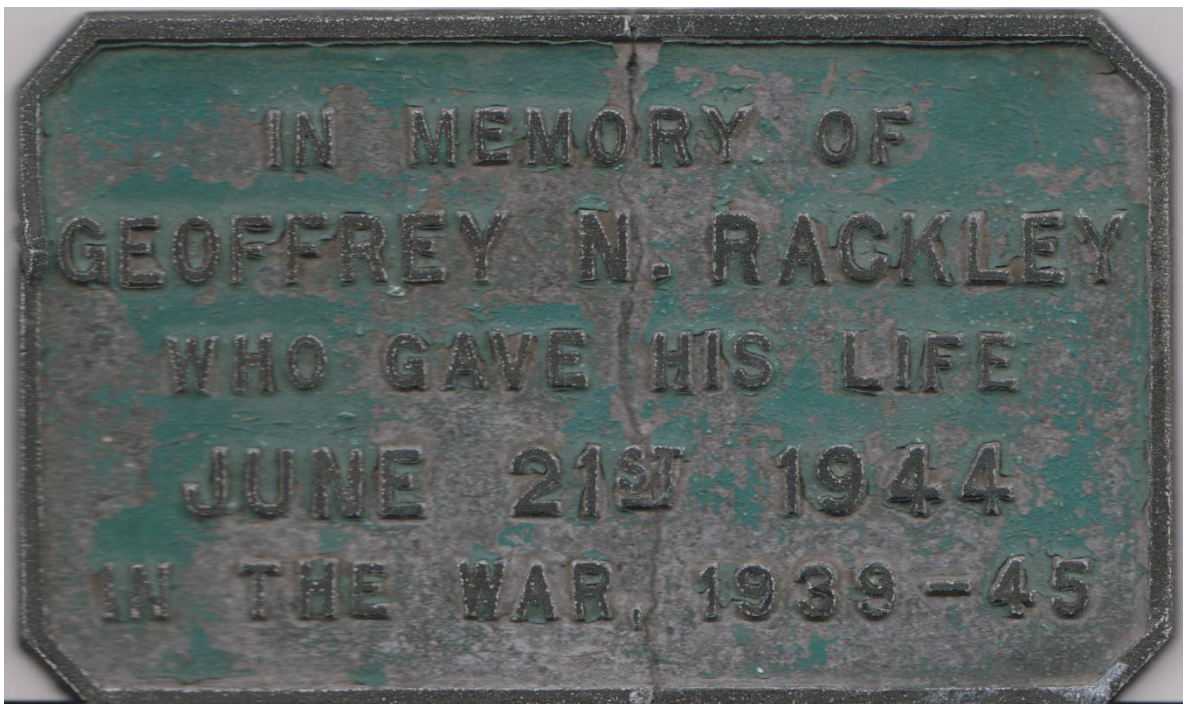
Dated at
the Air Ministry,
London,

this 21st day of March, 1945.

Letter from the Air Ministry dated March 1945 giving notification of death.



Two airgraphs sent home from training stations in South Africa



Memorial Plaque, probably from a Garden of Remembrance



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Queen and I offer you
our heartfelt sympathy in your
great sorrow.

We pray that your country's
gratitude for a life so nobly
given in its service may bring
you some measure of consolation.

George R.I

H. Rackley, Esq.