

**Copy of letter from McKinnon to Boris Rosen, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1944.**

1558104 Sgt A.W McKinnon  
6 Lucy Street  
Morecombe  
Lancs

17.11.44

Dear Mr Rosen,

A sadder loss I'm sure has never been experienced by myself or you.

Raymond sitting there awaiting unto death itself with this cool calm and deliberate efficiency which I'm sure we all knew him by. Radiating confidence all round him.

It breaks my heart to write and confirm the sad news which I'm sure you must have received by now, but as I owe my life to Raymond, I know it is my duty by my late comrades to do so.

Raymond was a credit to the Jews, and a friend loved dearly by all who knew him. I, sir, am proud to say I was the rear-gunner of F/O Rosen and was with him and his crew at the finish.

When we were hit and set on fire by enemy anti-aircraft, Raymond excelled himself by flying on into the target against great odds and we of his crew had such confidence in him that we were with him tooth and nail backing him up with all we had in us.

I'm sorry to say Raymond had been wounded seriously in the foot along with F/O Lelliot, our bomb aimer, this along with other things justified our return to Britain with all possible speed but so keen were we to knock out the robot planes that the target was well and truly bombed.

Shortly after this I heard Sgt. Fordham was dead, having been killed by the anti-aircraft. F/O Lelliot was killed shortly after the target; he, I should point out was assisted over his bomb site (sic) by F/Sgt W Rattray. Keeping cool, calm and deliberate Raymond ordered "Abandon Aircraft" seven times before I did so How the other boys and he got out is beyond me. All this time Raymond sat at the controls awaiting a death which must surely come, only considering his crew, and when we were attacked by a fighter, he carried out my evasive instructions perfectly and by that time I drove off the danger to my aircraft.

In the explosion that followed, Raymond was blown out of his seat and his parachute caught on the tailplane, I think however that Raymond was dead before this happened.

At Amiens are 4 Graves in this order.

F/O Rosen  
F/Sgt. B Rattray  
Sgt A.S. Fordham  
Sgt. Daley

To me sir I have lost six bothers and I really do miss their good company. Your heart's desire along with mine lies in Amiens. May I offer you my deepest sympathy and hope to see you in the near future.

Signed A.W McKinnon