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Ruder, Leroy A, Capt

Fallen

Service Photo



Service Details

Last Rank
Captain
Last Primary AFSC/MOS
M 1055-
Pilot, Single-Engine
Fighter

Last Unit
1943-1944,
M 1055,
Fighter
Units/364th
Fighter
Squadron

Service Years
1942 - 1944



Conflict : Campaigns, Battles and Exercises

Start Year **End Year**
1700 2100

Description
Node

Campaign : Wars and Conflicts

Start Year **End Year**
1700 2100

Description
Not Specified

Conflict : World War II

Start Year **End Year**
1941 1945

Description
World War II

Operation : Missions/Operations

Start Year **End Year**
1941 1945

Description
All missions and operations associated with WWII.

Battle : Various Missions over Germany 1944

Start Year **End Year**
1944 1944

Description
Germany Daylight Bombing and Support Missions

Participation

From Year **To Year**
1944 1944

Personal Recollections

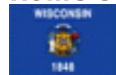
Last Updated:
Jul 8, 2010

Last Photo



Personal Details

Home State **Year of Birth**
Wisconsin 1921



Wisconsin

Home Town **Last Address**
Nekoosa Leiston AB,
England

Casualty Date
Jun 06, 1944

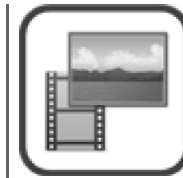
Cause **Reason**
Hostile, Died while Missing Air Loss, Crash - Land

Location **Conflict**
France World War II

Location of Interment **Wall Coordinates**
Not Specified Not Specified

Official Badges





0 Photos

483 Also
There

Additional Information

Last Known Activity

Leroy Alvin Ruder was born in Nekoosa, Wisconsin on May 22, 1921, the son of Albert S. and Sigrid A. Ruder. He attended and graduated from Alexander Senior High School, where he was class president, in 1939. He was employed in local paper mills until 1942.

In August 1942, he enrolled in the Aviation Cadet Program. He graduated and was given a commission as 2nd Lieutenant at Luke Field, Arizona in May 1943. In June of 1943, he was assigned to the 357th Fighter Group, and deployed with that unit to England in November, 1943.

Although the unit had been equipped with P-39 aircraft in the U.S., it did not take its planes overseas. So, it had no aircraft until December 1943, when 15 Mustang p-51s were acquired from the RAF. Training and transitioning then occurred, but the first combat mission for the Group did not come until February 11, 1944 as an escort mission for bombers.

Ruder was now assigned to the 364th Fighter Squadron, and was scheduled on escort missions and fighter sweeps. In the period March 6 to May 28, 1944, he received credit for 5 aerial victories, one shared "kill", as well as 4 claimed but unconfirmed aerial victories.

On the morning of D-Day, June 6, 1944, elements of the 364th Fighter Squadron were given orders for an early take-off. Their mission was to patrol the beaches at Normandy, and insure no German aircraft intruded. From 0500 until approximately 1000 hours, the patrol encountered thick clouds and was forced to fly lower than anticipated.

Ground gunners took their mark, and the aircraft Ruder was piloting received several hits. He radioed he had been hit and was going to land. A French eyewitness, Minister Theodore Ruoen later told this story:

Comments/Citation

Captain Leroy A. Ruder was assigned P-51B #42-106768 "Linda Lou" which was the aircraft in which he was killed on June 6, 1944. MACR 5517 applies.

He had previously been assigned P-51B #43-6872, also named "Linda Lou." This aircraft was transferred to the 1st Fighter Group in early March 1944. It was lost on May 19, 1944. MACR 5474, pilot not named.

"The aircraft tried to bellyland near the Kergomer Farm, but hit a stump and disintegrated. Parts of the aircraft blew away, and I could see the figure of the pilot." Disregarding long-standing instructions by the Germans to never approach a downed aircraft, Theodore went to the plane and said he saw the pilot, helmet off and in his hands, face bloody from an enormous head wound, lying inert. He said it was obvious the man was dead.

The body was turned over to civil authorities by the Germans, and was buried under the tower at the church of Saint-Michae-en-Crowe. Sometime later, it was exhumed, and identified as that of Captain Leroy Alvin Ruder. The remains were returned to the U.S. and were buried in Riverside Cemetery in Nekoosa, Wisconsin.

www.aviationarcheology.org
www.littlefriends.com/co/uk
Wisconsin Rapid Daily Tribune
newspaper
www.woodcountyveteransmemorial.org
357th Fighter Group/364th Fighter
Squadron records.

Photo Album ([More...](#))



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