

# Flying officer Albert Ransom Ball 1915-1940

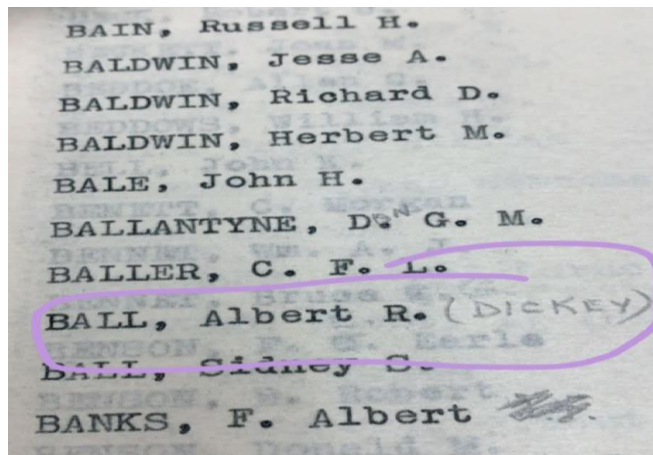


Figure 1: Albert Ransom Ball

Westmount High School was one of hundreds of schools that encouraged its students to enlist to serve in World War II. Most male students in grade 11 enlisted because they felt it would earn them respect and prestige from their friends and family. Students as young as those in grade 10 also enlisted. However, to do so, they had to lie about their age.

It is not clear whether Albert Ransom Ball (Dickey) enlisted upon graduating from high school. What is clear is that, at the time of his death, he was a Flying Officer and a member of the RAF. His unit number was 40069. He died on June 4, 1940 in the Battle of France. He was 25 years old.

Figure 2: Photograph taken at Westmount Archives showing Albert Ransom Ball's name on a list of enlisted soldiers.



## How He Passed Away

During the Battle of France, which lasted between May 10 and June 25, 1940, Dickey's aircraft, The Hurricane I L1901 (See Figure 7), went missing. Initially, it was presumed that he had survived. (See Photo below.) Eventually, however, it was confirmed that he died June 4, 1940; three weeks before the battle ended (See notice to his parents below). His parents Sidney Hastell and Isabel Gilman Ball and his brother and sister survived him. He is buried at The Reichswald Forest War Cemetery in sector 28.E.13 in Germany.



**THOUGHT SAFE**

Pilot Officer A.R. Ball of Montreal has been posted as missing following action with the Royal Air Force, but is "presumed safe."

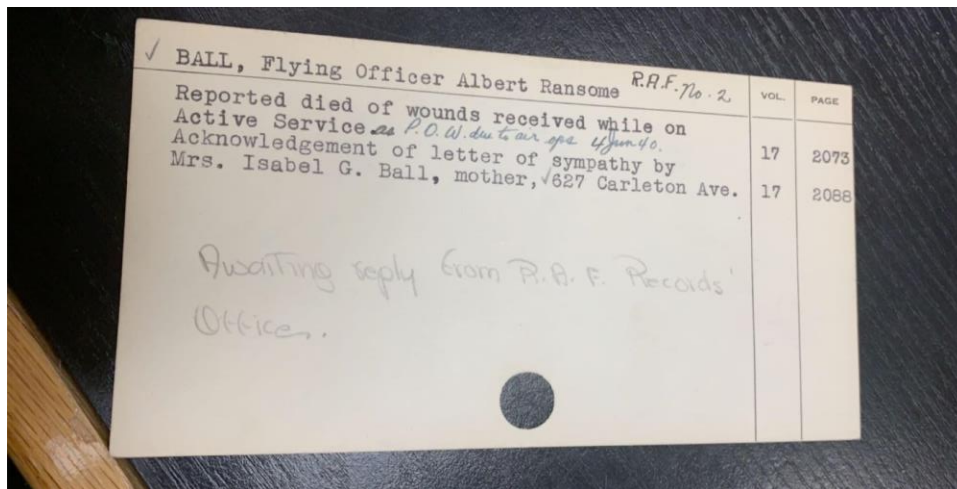


Figure 3: Newspaper clipping incorrectly stating that Albert Ball is, "presumed safe."

Figure 4: Death notification of Albert Ball sent to his parents.

## His rank

A Flying Officer is a Junior Commissioned Rank in the Royal Air Force (RAF). It is given to soldiers who serve in the air force sector of the army. It ranks above Pilot Officer and Flight Lieutenant. A Flying Officer is not a rank specifically for pilots, it is also given to soldiers who serve as aircrew or have command over flights.



Figure 5: Image of a lapel insignia for Flight Officers.

## The Battle

The Battle of France occurred when Germany invaded France. Over the course of the battle, Italy joined forces with Germany on June 10, 1940. Dickey was part of Squadron no. 3 for the RAF. His unit deployed to France to aid the British during the battle. While they took down 60 German aircraft, they lost 21 of their own. Following these losses, they retreated. We can infer that Dickey's aircraft was among the 21 ships that were lost. Ultimately, the Battle of France ended in victory for Germany.



Figure 6: Image from the ground portion of the Battle of France.

Figure 7: Image of a Hawker Hurricane Fighter.



Figure 8. The Veterans Memorial Book commemorated Albert Ransom Ball for his sacrifice.

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