

Sgt Israel Jacobovitch 1158295 RAFVR

Israel, (who served as Harold Jackson to protect his Jewish identity), was born on 29 May 1915 in London, the youngest son of Isaac Jacobovitch and Miriam Jacobovitch nee Bernstein.

Prior to joining the RAF as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, Israel was employed as the manager of a radio shop.

On the evening of 12 July 1941, 12 Hamdens from 50 Sqn were tasked, as part of a total force of 61 aircraft, to bomb the railway junction at Bremen. The weather was poor and electrical storms were encountered over the Dutch coast. Returning crews also reported numerous concentrations of searchlights between the Dutch coast and the target, with 20 - 30 forming cones.



Israel and the crew departed RAF Lindholme in Hamden I AE226 (VN) at 22:30 and nothing was heard from them after take-off. The aircraft was shot down en-route to the target by night fighter pilot Oberleutnant Helmut Lent of the 4./NJG 1, flying a Messerschmitt Bf 110 from Leeuwarden airfield. The aircraft crashed at 00:55 at Kortenakkers Veensloot, 30 km East-South-East of Groningen, Netherlands. This was one of 2 Sqn aircraft that failed to return.

Also killed were :

PO Edward Douglas Vivian (Pilot), Sgt Kenneth John Lord (Pilot), Flt Sgt Jack Guest BEM (WOp/Air Gunner)

Israel is buried at the Veendam General Cemetery, Groningen, Netherlands under his true name, the inscription proudly stating "I AM A JEW"

Israel is commemorated on Wall Panel 54

Photo source: <https://www.rememberingthejewsofww2.com>