

Sgt Lionel Black 948150 RAFVR

Lionel was born on 24 April 1920 in Birkenhead, Cheshire, the son of Harry Black and Charlotte Emma Black nee Adams.

Educated at the Birkenhead Institute, Lionel was employed as a gym instructor and masseuse on a variety of cruise liners. Employed on the Pacific Line "Duchess of Bedford", operating between Liverpool and Montreal, on the outbreak of war Lionel enlisted in the RAF and trained as a WOp/AG.

Following advanced training at 20 OTU RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, in May 1941 Lionel was posted to 214 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

On 2/3 September 1941, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Frankfurt, Hesse, Germany, a key industrial and transportation centre and home to numerous industrial installations. A combined force of 126 aircraft, including twelve 214 Sqn crews, was allocated to the op. The squadron's main target was the Frankfurt Marshalling yards.

At 20:25 on 2 September Lionel, operating as the Front Gunner, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Wellington Ic R1717 (BU-R).

Approaching the French coast, Lionel's aircraft was shot down by enemy fire and crashed into the sea off Dunkirk, Hauts-de-France, killing all on board.

Also Killed: F/L Reginald Hubert May (Pilot); FS James Patrick McKay RCAF (Obs); Sgt Jesse Clemence Brakeman RCAF (AG); Sgt Clifford Hambleton (Pilot); Sgt Leslie Whitehouse Price (WOp/AG)

Lionel is buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Nord, France

Lionel is commemorated on Wall Panel 131

Photo Source: rememberingthejewsofww2

