

Flt Sgt Jack Guest 525488 BEM RAF

Jack was born in 1917 in Sheffield, West Yorkshire, son of John Arthur Guest and Mary Guest nee Greaves. Jack joined the RAF in October 1935.

Whilst stationed at RAF Finningley on 7(Bomber) Sqn, Jack was awarded the BEM for an act of gallantry on 29 March 1938. He was flying as the wireless operator in a Heyford which was engaged in a night flying sortie when, as the aircraft was about to land, the Heyford hit a tree and crashed in flames. Jack was thrown clear, but he returned to the aircraft and pulled the two other occupants, Sqn Ldr John N Jaques and Plt Off Byron F Burbridge, out of the flames. He was assisted by a farmer, Mr George Linley, in rescuing the second. The award was promulgated in the King's Birthday Honours of June 1938 and in November he received the award at RAF Finningley from Air Cdre C H B Blount, ACC No 4 Bomber Group.



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.

Jack 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), Sgt Israel Jacobovitch (WOp/Air Gunner)

Jack is buried at the Veendam General Cemetery, Groningen, Netherlands.

Jack is commemorated on Wall Panel 64

Photo source: <https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/211369>