

Miriam's memories

Hymie's sister was interviewed, and she gave us the following information:

'I was 15 years old when WW2 began and living in London we were in the brunt of things. My sister Nettie joined the A.T.S. My brother Hymie was in the RAF and I was sent to work in a factory making transmitters for the forces. My brother Eli was in the land army and my youngest brother Victor was about three years old. My dear father was an Air Raid Warden and was out every night on duty at his post. My lovely Mother was busy looking after us all and keeping track of all the family.

Eli was at home alone when the dreaded telegraph arrived to say that Hymie was posted missing and he telephoned me at work to break the news to my parents. I managed to get hold of mu Uncle Jack, my Mother's brother, who picked me up and took me home to join Eli to await the return of my parents to break the sad news.

When my brother was killed the shock was imprinted on my mind and has remained there ever since. He was posted as missing for over a year and when the war was over, we were informed by the War Office that Hymie's plane, a Stirling, had been shot down over Denmark. He and three other members of his crew who were killed, had been buried in Gram Churchyard, Jutland. They lie together in one grave as their remains could not be separated. There were three survivors.

We were heartbroken and it was our wish to take his body to Israel to be re-interred, but it was not possible. My parents never managed to visit Hymie's grave as it was decided that it would be too emotional for them, but Sam and I together with my sister and brothers have all been there many times. We found comfort in seeing how the people of Gram look after and tend the burial place with loving care. We always take stones and sand from Israel and say appropriate prayers.