The Templehoff Family. 3 RAF deaths, two Jewish and one Christian

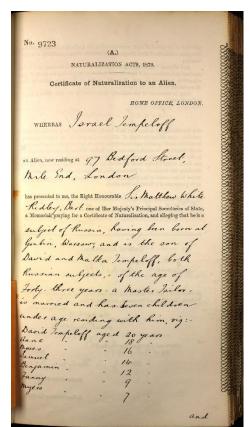
David Samuel Temple was born on 4 June 1921, in Kensington, London to Myer and Rebecca nee Tournoff and he had an older sister named Lilian.

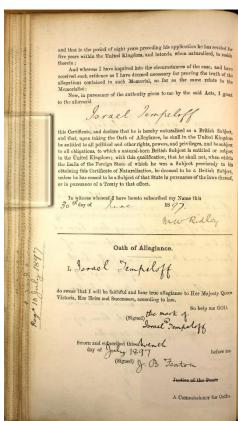
David's grandparents Israel and Chaya nee Levy originated from Warsaw, Poland where they married in 1871. They had eight children of which the first six were born in Poland. They travelled to England and had two further children born in London. They are listed in 1881 as living in Black Lion Yard in Whitechapel and Israel worked as a master tailor.

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<u>1891 Census</u>

By 1897 the family had moved to 97 Bedford Street in Mile End Old Town where Israel was listed as working as a master tailor. On 30 June 1897, Israel and his family became naturalised British Citizens and by 1901 he was a gentleman's tailor employing two staff.





In 1911 the family were living at 8 Tredegar Square in Bow, London and David's father Myer is listed as aged twenty-one, single and working as a bookkeeper.

By 1918 Myer had changed his surname to Temple and was working as a juvenile outfitter. He married Rebecca Tournoff in April 1918 and their first child Lilian was born on 12 February 1919 followed by David in 1921.

Myer died at the age of thirty-three on 31 July 1924 only three years after David was born. His death certificate states that his cause of death was malignant carditis and syncope.

				R	egistration	District KENSIN	GTON.					
18	1924. DEATHS in the Sub-District of KENSINGTON NORTH in the County of LONDON.											
Colu	umns:— 1.	2,	8.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.			
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant,	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.			
380	Shirtifist July 1924 249 Portobello Road	Myer Temple	male	33 yean	Juvenile Gutfetter	Malignant Erdo earlis (a) Syncope on m. Contified by 8. Show Of R.C.C.	Consing the body to be Phrisa 247 Pontobello Road	Thirty first July 1924	J.M. Oliver Bepulzy Registrar.			

Myer is buried in Edmonton Federation Jewish Cemetery.



1924—JN DUD II J.W. Myer Temple.
beloved husband of Rebecca (née
Teurnoff), youngest son of Mr. and
Mrs. Israel Templehoff, brother of
Mrs. M. Simmonds, Mrs. S. Nyman
(Hannab); Mrs. J. Mazin (Fannie),
Mr. Moeris: Temple, Mr. Samuel
Temple, and Mr. Benjamin Temple.
Decate meanned by his secrowing wife,
children, parents, relatives, and
friends May his dearceast read in
evertesting, peace. In 17277, -249.
Portobello-road, London, W.11

Myer's headstone and death announcement in the Jewish Chronicle.

Rebecca bought up the children alone as her parents Israel and Rosetta had also died in the 1920's. Her family heritage was of Russian Jews who emigrated to England in 1828. Rebecca remarried out of the Jewish religion when she was forty-five, to a twenty-one-year-old Christian, James Atkins, on 18 November 1937 at Edmonton registry office. David's stepfather James was only four years older than him.

James worked as an outfitter and qualified as a pilot in 1936 at the Herts and Essex Aero Club. In 1939, the register states that the family were living at 15 Farm Avenue in Harrow and James is listed as serving in the RAF and David was working as a civil servant. David's sister Lilian worked as a stenographer and her fiancée Alfred Gale, a physicist, was also living at the address. Lilian married Alfred in October 1939 in Hendon and their daughter Jill was born in 1944. The family emigrated to Massachusetts, USA in the 1950's and became American citizens in 1958.





James Atkins

James was the pilot of Beaufighter JL514 of 227 Squadron. Early in the afternoon on 21 May 1943, three Beaufighters were engaged in a fight with five JU 52's and an escort of five Arados near Melos in the Aegean Sea. The aircraft was seen to attack an Arado but nothing more was seen or heard from the aircraft. James is buried in Phaleron War Cemetery and was killed almost exactly two years after David.

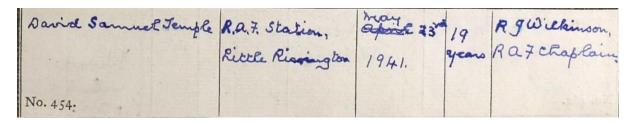
David Temple

On 18 May 1941, David was on board Whitley P5047 which departed from RAF Little Rissington in Gloucestershire. The aircraft crashed to the ground at Windrush Relief Standing Ground. David's death certificate states that his cause of death was 'burns sustained when the aeroplane in which he was flying accidentally crashed to the ground at Windrush Relief Landing Ground'.

All three men on board were killed including U/T Pilot, LAC John Samuel Edgar Rawcliffe, 964357 and Pilot John Trevor Smale, 1252037

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194&. DEATHS in the Sub-District of NORTHLEACH in the County of GLOUCESTER.											
Columns:— 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7. (2)	1 2 8.	9.			
o. When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.			
Eighteenth May 19410 Windrush Peliet Janding Ground Windrush	David Jamuel Yemple	male Y	19 65.55 2013 35.05 2013 35.05	referred to a the fly of the fly	Beens sustained when the aeroflane in which he was flying acadentall rashed to the ground. at Mindrush Felref dending Ground. Windrush.	Corener for	beventeenti April 1942	aw Miles Registrar			

David's death certificate



David's burial record at Little Rissington

David was buried on 23 May 1941 at Little Rissington (St Peter) Churchyard, and his headstone was marked with a cross. Extensive research uncovered the fact that he was Jewish and that he was nineteen and not eighteen as engraved on his headstone. An appeal was sent to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to change his headstone. The CWGC have acknowledged that David's mother requested that no religious emblem was placed on his headstone. They have stated:

'The Commission clearly had correspondence with the next of kin who chose not to have a religious emblem engraved on the headstone.

Follow up communications from the Commission with the family were not returned, where it was then decided (by the Commission) that a cross should be engraved as the default.

As this is a direct confliction with the mother's original wishes, the Commission will now seek to rectify this historic mistake and amend the headstone to show no religious emblem upon Corporal Temple's headstone within Little Rissington (St. Peter) Churchyard'.

We are now waiting for David's headstone to be changed.



Francis Montague Mazin, David's cousin

David's father Myer had a sister Fanny Templehoff who married naturalised British citizen and Russian born Jacob Mazin in 1909. They had four children of which the youngest and only son was Francis Montague Mazin born in April 1921 two months before his cousin David Temple. The Mazin family owned a well-known book and music shop in 1899 which existed until 1970.



Francis enlisted into the RAF in 1941. He was the navigator on Halifax W7878 which departed RAF Gravely on a night operation to Krefeld on the 22 June 1943. The aircraft crashed into the sea off the Dutch coast killing all the crew who are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Francis was twenty-two.