

Operation

On the 7th November 1942, Halifax DT515 took off from RAF Linton on Ouse on a bombing raid to the ports of Genoa to obstruct the supplies of German war materials. The aircraft was hit by flak above France and was abandoned due to engine problems. The aircraft crashed and exploded in a forest near Chaumont.

Just before the crash the crew managed to bale out. The crew members managed to avoid being captured until the next day when five of them, Sgt H White RCAF, Sgt P McBride RNZAF, Sgt HW Owen, Sgt DL Reed and Norman were arrested in a house in the woods.

Norman was seriously injured and was taken to hospital at Chaumont where he sadly died of his injuries, and was buried in the cemetery of Saint Aignan, Chaumont. He was 22 years old.

F/S G Thom escaped via Switzerland but was taken prisoner at Perpignan trying to reach Spain and Sgt LW Horne evaded to England via Switzerland in September 1944.

The Germans did not know that Norman was Jewish and so the grave was inscribed with a cross. When Norman's mother arrived from England in 1948, she put a bag over the headstone until she could get a new headstone made with a Star of David. It was in place within days and later replaced by a CWGC headstone.