

Samual and Doris nee Volpert from Cardiff.

According to their daughter they decided to join the RAF during their honeymoon in Paris in 1936 because they were so disturbed by the atmosphere there. They eventually enrolled during the Munich Crisis in 1938 and would have served part time until the mobilisation in autumn 1939.

Both were posted at Cardiff Airport first. Doris served with the 12<sup>th</sup> WAAF Balloon Barrage, a defence system that hindered aircraft in flying low to the ground by raising aloft steel cables with the help of a kite balloon. She was later posted to Wembley where, now a corporal, she was working in the depot. Her daughter recalls that she was one of the first women wearing the WAAF uniform. Nothing further is known about her service, but she seems to have served until 1940.

Sam was posted to 614 Sqn, an auxiliary squadron in charge of supporting defence at home and overseas. He volunteered to join aircrew, trained as a wireless operator at RAF Yatesbury in Wiltshire and was posted to 38 Sqn. He first served in Western Europe and in the Mediterranean. His command was sent to the Middle east in November 1940 to form a night bomber wing attacking the Italian held ports in North Africa that were supplying Axis forces in the western Desert.

Being posted in the canal zone near Suez and Port Tewfik, Sam was able to visit his family in Haifa. The Jewish Museum holds letters and photos from this trip. These trips appear to have been very important for Sam who was far away from his home in Wales. In the letters to his cousin Henia who lived in Haifa he wrote how much he had loved visiting her and her family. He also seems to have spent Hanukah with them as one picture shows him in a family home with a map of Haifa and a Hanukah lamp in the background. Sam wrote to Henia: 'I shall remember Palestine and its people as long as I live' and he was keen to show the country to his wife as well. Back in Egypt he missed his cousin and berated her when she did not reply to his letter immediately, and he even invited her to visit him in Egypt.

Sam was very concerned about his wife 'Dolly' back in the UK and sent her letters with multiple declarations of love. These letters together with his diary, documents and photographs are held at the Jewish Museum. He was particularly worried once he heard that she was pregnant. When the birth was imminent, Doris returned to Cardiff causing Sam more anxiety when the town was blitzed in early 1941. Doris gave birth to Ruth on 17 May 1941. Sam was never to meet his daughter as he was killed one month earlier. On 13 April his plane took off to bomb the Derna Aerodrome in Libya never to return. Two weeks before his death he had written to Henia regarding a prospective visit: 'In any case, I'm saving some good news [censored words] I'll have a lot to talk about'.

Samuel Miara is commemorated on the war Memorial on Cardiff United Synagogue in Cyncoed Gardens and on the El Alamein Memorial.

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