David 'Ian' Haskett was born in SA on 2 June 1945. He was called up for Nasho as 4717687 on 29 September 1965 and at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal, was selected for officer training at Scheyville. He commenced OTU with Class 2/65 on 15 October. Graduating on 7 April 1966 Ian transferred to the Army Staff Corps and was allocated to the RAAC until he undertook Basic Flying Training School Course 61 at Point Cook in May. This was followed by Advanced Flying Training on Rotary Wing aircraft at Amberley early in 1967. Postings to 1 Aviation Regiment and 183 Independent Flight followed. Ian resigned from the Army with the rank of Captain.

By 1985 Ian was the Chief Pilot and Chief Check and Training Pilot for Pel-Air with 9,881 hours in his flying log. At the time Pel Air was contracted to fly cargo for Ansett Industries. Early in the morning of 10 October 1985 an Israel Aircraft Industries 1124 Westwind aircraft piloted by Edward Owen Jackson, who Haskett was assessing, took off from the Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport on a flight to Cairns, via Brisbane. Shortly after take-off the aircraft crashed into the water off Botany Bay. Both pilots were killed in the crash. Investigations showed that there was one small fault in the aircraft's instruments which may, or may not have, contributed to the crash. Otherwise, the reasons for the crash were not known.