

Cyril's grandparents Lazarus and Fruma were born in Bratslav, Ukraine. They arrived in England around 1883 with their children Hannah, Rosie, Julius, Shana, Sonny and Betsy. The 1901 census shows them living in Hanbury Gardens, Spitalfields. Lazarus is working as a greengrocer and his son Julius (Cyril's father) is a cabinet maker.

Cyril's parents Julius and Rachel nee Yablonska married in January 1903 in St George in the East. Their first child Milly was born in 1903 followed by Monty, Samuel, Sarah, Marks and finally Cyril in 1924 who was the youngest child.

In 1911, the family were living at 485 Commercial Road, London East and Julius is working as a house carpenter.

Cyril was born in 1924 in Mile End.

Cyril's family do not at this stage have any further information about his early life, but the 1939 Register indicated that he was living with his parents and brother Marks at 36 Kynaston Road, Stoke Newington. It is known that the family spoke Yiddish which is probably why Cyril was selected as a Special Operator in 101 Squadron.

Cyril's family have advised that during his training in Canada in 1942 he took leave and travelled to Chicago where he met with his cousin and other relatives.