

Jack was born in Guildford, Surrey on 1 August 1920 to Jacob and Jane nee Costello. His grandparents Pinkus and Hene Mincki originated from Warsaw, Poland. They arrived in England in the 1890's and by 1911, they were living in St Pancras where Pinkus ran a hairdresser's shop.

Jack's father and Uncle Albert both served in WW1. Jack was in the Royal Fusiliers and was discharged after being wounded. Albert served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Durham Light Infantry and was killed on the 17 December 1916. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France.

Jack went to Sandfield Primary school in Guildford and then to Guildford Royal Grammar school in 1931. After finishing school Jack joined his father in his accountancy practice and in 1939, the family were living at Althan, Denmark Road, Guildford.

Jack enlisted in the RAF at Cardington in April 1940 and trained to be a wireless operator/air gunner. He completed his training in 1941.

He was posted to 207 Squadron in February 1942 and started operational flying in June 1942. Jack joined the crew of Anthony Walters and flew on a Gardening operation to the Deodars area on 3 June 1942. Jack flew with the crew on 19 operations until Walters was transferred. Jack was then transferred to a conversion unit. In November 1942, he returned to 207 Squadron with a new skipper, Pilot Warner Ottley, Flight Engineer Ronald Marsden, Air Gunner Frederick Tees, Air Bomber Thomas Barr Johnston and Air Gunner Harry Strange. The crew flew twenty operations between December 1942 and March 1943 before the Dams raid six months later.

Jack's last operation in 207 Squadron was an operation to Nuremberg on 8 March 1943. He finished his tour and was recommended for a D.F.M.

The award did not arrive before the Dams raid and was awarded posthumously to his family.

On the 17 May 1943, Lancaster ED910 took off from RAF Scampton to bomb the Lister Dam. The aircraft was hit by flak and crashed into Boselagerschen Forest near Heessen, Hamm. Sgt Frederick Tees, the rear gunner survived the crash, although badly burnt and was taken prisoner. All the other crew were killed.