

Norman was born on 5 August 1920 in Liverpool. His father, Wolfe was the son of Jewish Polish immigrants Lazarus and Sprinca Ellenbogen who arrived in the UK in the 1850's and originally owned a grocer's shop and then a second-hand furniture store in Liverpool. Lazarus gained a criminal record in 1907 by failing to exhibit a copy of the shop hours whilst having a young person under the age of eighteen in his employment

Lazarus and Sprinca (Teresa) were married in Liverpool in July 1873 and they had seven children, Isaac, Wolfe, Hannah who died aged two, Minnie, Ada, Bernard who died aged three and Louis.

Lazarus became a naturalised British citizen on the 3 May 1893. Sprinca died in 1925 and Lazarus in 1928.

Wolfe, Norman's father was born on 23 December 1877 in Liverpool. Records state that that in 1901 he worked in the family furniture business as a manager with his brother Isaac.

At the age of thirty-eight he married Sylvia Lipman in Hackney in April 1916. On the 7 December 1916 he enlisted in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 3rd Garrison Battalion knowing that his wife was expecting their first child. He became ill and was discharged in February 1917. In January 1917 he was presented with a Jewish prayer book.

Wolfe and Sylvia's daughter Naomi was born in Birkenhead in May 1917 followed by their son Norman in August 1920. In 1933, when Norman was thirteen his father died in Liverpool and in 1936, his mother Sylvia took Naomi and Norman to live in Cricklewood her hometown. After leaving school Norman worked as an office clerk before he enlisted.

On the 2 August 1940 Norman enlisted and was recommended for training as an observer and he spent time training in South Africa. He qualified on 10 January 1942. He joined 76 Squadron on the 31 August 1942.