

Bernard Arthur White was born on the 23 September 1917 in Dublin, Ireland. He was one of six children born to Marks White and Janie Cravitz.

Marks and Janie were both born in Riga, Latvia and left the country when the Pogroms started which was making their lives very difficult as Jews. Their intention was to travel by ship to the USA where other family members had settled in Hartford, Connecticut. Their ship docked in Southern Ireland and they were told by the captain of the ship that they were in America. They only spoke Yiddish and believed that they were in America.

Janie and Marks married in Dublin in March 1904 and had six children. Fanny born in 1904, married Samuel Taca and had no children. Bertha was born in 1906, married Louis Miller and had no children. Henry born in 1909, married Henrietta Elliman and had four children. Solomon born in 1914, he married late in life and had no children. Bernard born in 1917 and Maurice born in 1919 and had one daughter.

Janie had two brothers who also emigrated to Dublin with Louis arriving in 1902. Both Louis and Max were placed on the Register of Aliens. Louis's records state that he had family already living in Dublin and that he had served for three months in the Russian Army before deserting and travelled to Ireland. He married Esther in 1919. Louis's brother Max arrived in Belfast in 1911, he also married and settled in Dublin.

Benny attended Kingsland Park school in Dublin in 1922 from the age of five. When he was twelve, he became a member of the 16th Dublin Jewish Scout Troop.

Benny was known as a bit of a spendthrift when he was younger. He was very close to his younger brother Maurice and used to regularly borrow money from him with the promise he'd pay it back the next day. Maurice seldom got his money back. Benny had a very sweet tooth and used the money to buy sweets. Maurice told his daughter that Benny took up boxing and was a member of a local boxing club. He recalled that when Benny returned from the boxing club, he was always hungry, and his favourite snack was to fry bananas. Maurice in later years would talk about Benny with tears in his eyes and became very emotional with his memories.

Benny write letters to his mother whilst training, and he also wrote to his elder brother Henry and advised him that he had injured his leg whilst training. Henry visited Benny in hospital and the family remembers hearing that the doctors wanted to amputate Benny's leg, but Henry refused to give permission. Benny made a good recovery but did walk with a limp afterwards.

Benny's mother Janie could only speak Yiddish and could not write in English, so when the news came that Benny was missing, it was his oldest sister Fanny who corresponded with the authorities. Benny was classed as missing in action for a long time which had a devastating effect on the family and in particular on his mother. Fanny was known by the family to have corresponded with the families of the other crew members. A letter did exist written in great detail from the wife of F Sgt. Victor Newell. It was a very descriptive letter and extremely sad as she was giving support to Fanny while praying her husband would be home soon to see his six-week-old daughter, who, she said, is exactly like her daddy.

A final letter received by Janie informs her that as so much time had passed, it had to be assumed that Bernard had died.