

Heinz was the only child of Julius Popper and Eugenie Juran and was born 28 January 1925 in Vienna, Austria.

In 1912, at the age of eighteen, Heinz's mother Eugenie arrived in Vienna. She was born in the small town of Stanislaw in Galizien. She wanted to be a doctor and through her hard work at school was offered a place at the University of Vienna. Like many immigrants she rented rooms in the predominantly Jewish district of Leopoldstadt.

She was the daughter of Leon Juran and Perl Blatt and had two younger brothers Artur and Karol. They came to Vienna to join Eugenie after the outbreak of war in 1914 when large parts of Galicia were captured by the Russians.

Heinz's father Julius arrived in Vienna on 28 April 1920. Julius was born in Koszeg in western Hungary before the family moved to Budapest. His father Ignacz and his mother Malvina Biringer moved to Vienna with Julius's nine siblings in the late 1920's. Ignacz established himself as a shareholder and dealer of Popper and Company and the family lived on Konradgasse Street in the district of Leopoldstadt.

Eugenie graduated in 1920 and registered as a doctor whilst living with her family on Bocklingasse 90. It is not known how Julius and Eugenie met but they married on 28 January 1923 and moved to Piniglase 17a in the district of Wieden which was to remain the family home until they left Vienna. After two years of marriage their only child Heinz was born on 28 January 1925. He was known in the family as Heinzy. Julius became the agent of a British company Henry Wiggin & Co which made metal products. They supplied nickel alloys for aircraft manufacturing.

The Popper and Juran family gained another connection when Julius's cousin Piroska visited his family and met Eugenie's brother Artur. They married and had a daughter Ruth in 1928.

Ruth would recall memories of Heinzy when they were small children playing together when their families met, and she regarded her cousin as her older brother. She remembers Heinz as a nice but wild boy. She remembered that Heinzy's mother took care of him as she was not working. The Popper family were also amongst the first to have a telephone installed in their house. Ruth also recalled the many holidays that the Popper family took in Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and at skiing resorts in the winter. Heinz's education was important, and Eugenie sent him to an exclusive summer school, and he attended one of the best Jewish schools in Vienna, the Hayut Gymnasium where he excelled in Greek, Latin and Hebrew.

Artur Juran owned a car and the two families would regularly pack into his car with picnic baskets and travel out to the countryside. Usually the Sabbath was celebrated together at the home of Ruth and Heinz's grandparents.

The lives of the Popper and Juran family were to change dramatically with the annexation of Austria by Germany on 12 March 1938. The Austrian Nazis were zealous in restricting Jewish lives. Both families made the decision to leave Austria. A neighbour Dr Paul Tritsch and his wife emigrated to England as early as August 1938 and it is thought that perhaps they helped the families in obtaining permission for immigration. Julius travelled to England first followed by Eugenie and Heinz who travelled to England via Budapest and then to Italy. The Juran family chose to travel to Palestine. Ruth remembers that the last time she saw Heinz was at the docks in Italy when they went their separate ways.

During the war in England, Julius did not work due to bad health and Eugenie was not allowed to work as a doctor as she did not have British qualifications and she had to work as an au pair. Julius's

previous business partners paid for Heinz's education at St Lawrence's College from September 1939 until July 1942. He enjoyed school and won the history prize and played in the school rugby team. He was also a member of the Air Training Corps from the age of thirteen to seventeen.

After school he wanted nothing more than to join the RAF as a pilot as he wanted to give back to the Nazis what they had done to Austria. His mother was not happy about him joining up as she wanted him to continue his education and attend university to train as a lawyer. Heinz was told that it would take at least ten months to be called up as a pilot but if he became a radio operator, he would be signed up immediately.

Heinz volunteered in Birmingham on 19 May 1943. His service records state that he was a Hungarian national, his occupation was a clerk and that he lived at 5 Druids Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham. His next of kin was his father whose address was in London. Strangely, he listed the person to be notified in the event of any casualty to be the Refugee Children's Movement in Bloomsbury, the organisation involved with Kindertransport. Heinz served with the name Henry.

When Heinz started his training as a radio operator he was asked if he was interested in becoming a special operator. It would mean that his training was accelerated, and he would enter the war quickly. Heinz agreed and signed up and was placed with 101 Squadron on 3 May 1944.

Heinz completed 24 operations from the 19 May 1944 until his 25th and final operation on 29 August 1944. Heinz had a total of one year and 105 days in service of which one year and 38 days were qualified.

Many of Heinz's relatives who were unable to escape from Austria were murdered in the Holocaust at Auschwitz. After the war, Heinz's cousin Ruth came to England and lived with the Poppers in Barking and they paid for her education. She returned to Israel after the war in Palestine ended in 1949. Eugenie returned to work as a doctor in 1946 and both Julius and Eugenie became naturalised British citizens in 1947.

Heinz's headstone was paid for and erected in 1951 by the Jewish congregation in Malmo and the smaller stone lying flat in front was arranged by Julius and Eugenie. It says, *'Our only sunshine, so dearly loved, so sadly missed. Rest in Peace. Mutti and Papa'*.

In 1957, Eugenie applied to recover money that was stolen from them by the state of Austria. The paperwork states that they were forced to leave Vienna on 1 December 1938 because of persecution. Julius had a nervous breakdown in 1938 and suffered from a bad neck for most of his life. He had very high blood pressure and it was thought that this caused him to have a stroke in 1952. Julius died in 1957 in St George's hospital. On 1 April 1958 the Austrian government paid 15,000 Schillings in compensation for the loss they suffered during the war.

Eugenie arranged for Julius to be buried in the same cemetery as their son and his headstone reads, *'He came a long way to rest in a Jewish spot with our only child. God give them eternal peace'*.

Eugenie died in 1974 and she also was buried in the cemetery in Malmo with the headstone saying, *'At last together'*.

In Eugenie's will she left money to St Lawrence's College for a prize to be awarded each year to the boy who by his general conduct can be considered the best gift to his mother.

Grateful thanks go to Anette Sarnas who has shared the information and photographs from her book Rapporterad Saknad. Anette was in contact with Ruth who kindly shared her family photos and information on Heinzy. Ruth lit candles on both Heinzy's birthday and the anniversary of his death. She never forgot her 'big brother'