

Hymie's background

Hyman known as Hymie, was the son of Morris and Etty Rachel née Levene of Whitechapel, London.

Hymie's maternal grandparents, Moishe and Guta (Goody) Levene originated from Grodno, Belarus. Moishe and Goody had four children, Jacob, Etty, Mark and Alfred (Carol) all born in Belarus, the youngest Alfred born in 1903. The family emigrated to England after 1903 and in 1911 were living at 3 New Church Street, Bethnal Green. Moishe who was fifty-three was working as a fur coat liner, the oldest son Jack was a mantle tailor and Etty, Hymie's mother, was fourteen and working as a dressmaker. Hymie's mother Etty married Morris Kahler in April 1922 in Whitechapel, London.

Morris's father Mendel Kaller was born in Poland and his mother Rosa was from Belarus. Morris was born in Bayern, Germany before they arrived in England. In 1939, Morris's parents and brother Oscar are living at 124 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington. Morris is a Rabbinical supervisor and Oscar is working as a Kosher food supervisor.

Morris and Etty had five children, Nettie, Hyman, Miriam, Elijah and Victor.

Hyman, known as Hymie, attended a religious school which was run by a Dr Schonfeld. Dr Schonfeld went on to save many children from Nazi persecution in Eastern Europe.

Hymie's sister Miriam told us that he was a friendly, sociable young man who enjoyed camping, swimming and hiking, and he also helped out at the Sunday school. His small group of friends all enlisted at the same time into the RAF.