

Jack Cantor was born on 13 September 1921 in Hackney, London. His parents were Abraham (Alfred) and Bessie Pruzansky (Griver).

Jack's paternal family had a long line of living in London with his 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather Abraham being born in 1801 in Aldgate, London. His 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather Aaron was born in the Netherlands in 1756 and died 1822 in London.

Bessie's family originated from Belarus. Her father Joseph was born in Russia and by 1911 the family had changed their surname from Pruzansky to Griver. Joseph worked as a master cabinet maker.

Jack's grandfather Jacob known as John married Phoebe Abrahams in 1875 in London City where he worked as a handbag maker. John and Phoebe had six children of which Alfred; Jack's father was the penultimate child. In 1901, John is listed on the census as a publican at the Hosford Arms and Royal Cricketers pub at 211 Old Ford Road in Bethnal Green. The family lived and worked here until 1904 when John sold his license.

The 1911 census lists the family as living at 2 Devonshire Road, Lambeth and John is running a new public house. Jack's father Alfred is listed along with his brother Henry as working as law clerks.

In 1915, Alfred married Bessie Griver in London City. Alfred and Bessie had five children, Phoebe was born in 1916 followed by Jack who was born after Alfred returned from serving in the army in WW1, Cecil, Daphne and Joyce.

In 1939, Alfred was listed as living at 10 Clarence Road, Hackney where he was working as a collector for credit.

Jack attended Oakfield School in Croydon. His report card in 1926 when he was five in kindergarten states 'Jack has made good progress but is too talkative in class'

In late 1939, the family moved to 10 St Andrew's Mansions, Lower Clapton and is from here that Jack decided to enlist into the RAF.

At the age of nineteen Jack enlisted at Cardington in April 1940. After training Jack was posted to 100 Squadron and posted to 550 Squadron on the squadron start up on 25 November 1943.