

Around 1910 Mark's grandfather Marco Isaac Azouz arrived in Glasgow from Istanbul. He was an importer of Turkish lace and an exporter of Paisley lace to Turkey. In 1911, his son Albert Azouz, aged nine, is recorded in the register of admissions at Gorbals Public School. He was listed as a 'Mohammedan' from Constantinople. Marco died in 1913 and is buried in the Western Necropolis.

During WW1, Marco's wife Sarah and some of her children were stranded in Turkey while on a visit back to Istanbul. Three of her sons were declared enemy aliens and sent to a labour camp in Jedburgh, where they were involved in cutting timber for the war effort. Sarah returned in 1919 and the family later moved to London.

*Information credit to Harvey Kaplan of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre.*

Mark was born in 1922 in Glasgow and moved with his parents Esta and Raphael to London in 1924, with the rest of the Azouz family moving to London in 1925. After a short period in Shepherds Bush, Mark's family then moved to Brackley Road, Chiswick and then Park Road in Chiswick.

Mark registered at Latymer School on 17 Jan 1934 when he was twelve years old. Records at the school show that he was an exceptionally good swimmer. Especially in the backstroke, competing successfully for the school in several galas. He came first in his form in 1935 and passed his General Schools Examinations in December 1938. He left school at sixteen and was articled to a firm of solicitors for two years before he enlisted into the RAF in 1941 aged eighteen.