Aubrey was born in April 1920 in West Derbyshire, Lancashire. He was the youngest child of six children born to Polish born parents Hyman Gersch Crystal and Dora Greenberg. Their grandfather Abraham Isaac (Yitzhak) was born in 1852 in Jedwabne, Poland and married Leah Hyman in Poland in 1878.



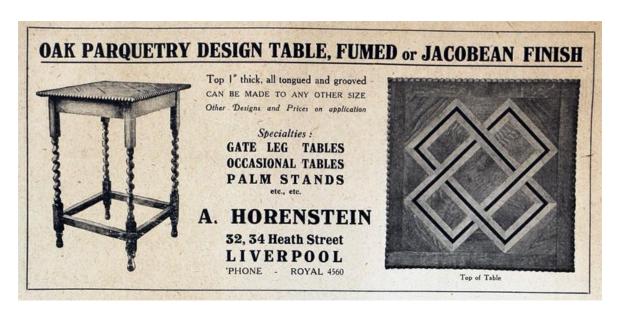
Avraham Yitzhak Crystal and Leah Hyman in 1906 at their daughter Mays wedding

They had seven children all born in Poland before they emigrated to England and Aubrey's father Hyman was the eldest child. Hyman married Polish born Dora on 15 October 1900 in Jedwabne, Poland and their first daughter Sybil was born in Jedwabne the following year. Hyman, Dora and Sybil left Poland in 1901 and travelled to Liverpool where his father and brother Joseph. Hyman became a naturalised British Citizen in 1919, and his papers recall his family story.

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(b) He worked as a cabinet maker in Edvadno until 1901, when he left for England to join his father and brother Joseph who were then working in Liverpool. Arriving in England in May 1901, he was employed by his uncle Morris Crystal, a cabinet maker now in business at 99 Soho Street, Liverpool until 1906 when he left and for six months worked for his father.

Leaving that employment, he carried on a cabinet making business of his own in Stafford Street for a few months, after which he gave up the business and the following month left Liverpool on S.S. Mauretania for New York. There he worked as a cabinet maker and resided with his father-in-law Mr. Greenberg in South Fell Street, Brooklyn, New York, until August of the same year when he returned to Liverpool as a passenger on S.S. Celtic. He next entered the employment of M. Blankstone & Co. Wholesale Cabinet Makers, 157 Islington, Liverpool where he remained until November 1914. From that company he was engaged by J. Milman, Cabinet Maker, 19 Falkland Street, Liverpool, being employed by him until June 1916. Then until 10 October 1917 when he was called upon for military service, he worked for A. Horenstein, Cabinet Maker, 32/34 Heath Street, Liverpool.



He was enlisted in Liverpool as Private 399 for 38th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and sent to the London Depot to join the 39th Battalion, being drafted from there to the 42nd Battalion at Plymouth. He was later returned to London for depot duties and served there until August 1918, when he re-joined his Battalion, with which he remained until 24/9/1918, on which date he was discharged medically unfit. Discharge certificate J/399 issued by the Officer in Charge, Infantry Record Office, London and dated 24/9/1918, produced.

Returning to Liverpool he has since been employed as a cabinet maker by A. Horenstein, 32/34 Heath Street.

Nothing is known by the police of this City detrimental to his character, and his conduct during the time he was in the Army was excellent.

(c) He can speak the English language but is unable to read more than a few simple words. He can write his name.

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- (d) He intends to reside permanently within [words obscured] Dominions, and is willing if necessary, to re-enter the services of the Crown.
- (e) As all his family and business interests are centred in this country and he has served with the British Army, he now wishes that the rights and privileges of a natural born British subject my be enjoyed by himself and his family.
- (f) From 1903 to 1907 he resided at 7 Westbourne Street, Liverpool. From 1907 to January 1911, he resided at 9 Low Hill, Liverpool and from August 1911 (not 1909 as shown in this application) until the present time he has resided at 38, Horsley Street, Liverpool, except for the time spent in the Army.

He has not been out of the country since his arrival from Russia in 1901, except for the period during 1911, when he was in New York (referred to at 2b)

(g) He stated that he was married to his present wife in Edvadno, Lomza, Russian Poland, on 15th October 1900. Jewish marriage papers produced.

- (h) The Christian name of his wife is Dora. She is 38 years of age, and was born in Edvadno, Lomza, Russian Poland, being the daughter of Russian parents, Simcri and Kashka Greenberg who are in New York, USA.
- (i) He has four children as follows: Sarah, born on 5th November 1901 in Edvadno, Government of Lomza, Russian Poland. He is not in possession of a birth certificate relating to his daughter.

David, born on 21/11/1905 at 7 Westbourne Street, Liverpool. Birth certificate produced.

Esther, born on 25/10/1912 at 38 Horsley Street, Liverpool. Birth certificate produced.

Evelyn, born on 31/5/1915 at 38 Horsley Street, Liverpool. Birth certificate produced.

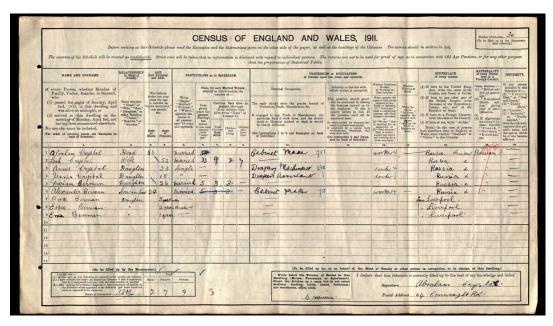
- (j) He has complied with Part 2 of the Aliens Restriction Order and was registered here Serial Number 449/21 on 8/8/1914. He is in possession of Identity Book 415224 issued on 10/12/1918 at Liverpool.
- 3. As regards the Referees: -
- (a) They are of good character and are respectable. Thomas Monaghan is employed as a foreman confectioner with Messrs. Kirkland Bros., Bakers, Hardman Street, Liverpool, and Alfred Ernest Ridley is employed as a wheelwright by the Birkenhead Motor Works, Duke Street, Birkenhead.
- (b) They are natural born British subjects and are householders, Mr. Monaghan residing at 37 Horsley Street, and Mr. Ridley at 36 Horsley Street, Liverpool.

(c and d) Both have been acquainted with him as a neighbour,

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Mr. Monaghan for about nine years, and Mr. Ridley for five years, and can vouch for the residence period since 1911 being correct.

They also stated that they have always found Applicant to be a man of the highest character and loyal to this country, and they know of no reason why he should not be granted a Certificate of Naturalization.



Their first son David was born in 1905 followed by Esther in 1912, Evelyne in 1915 and finally Aubrey who was born in April 1920. Little is known of Aubrey's early life before he enlisted in the RAF in 1941.

In 1939 the family were living at 95 Salisbury Road in Liverpool. Aubrey's father Hyman was working as a cabinet maker, his sister Esther was also living at the address with her husband Sydney Harris a pharmacy manager and his sister Evelyn was also at the address with her husband Salomon Hen (Henson), a South African born Medical Practitioner.



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