

Solomon was born 29 November 1909 in Leeds to Lithuanian born parents Benjamin and Sarah Rose nee Nathanson.

Benjamin was born 1871 in Simnas, Alytaus, Lithuania and travelled to live in Leeds where he worked as a tailor. He married Sarah Rose on 25 February 1896 in Belgrave Street Synagogue in Leeds. Sarah Rose left Lithuania when she was sixteen and had planned to go to the USA. She travelled via England to visit her Uncle Abraham in Leeds. Abraham was married to Benjamin's half-sister Fanny. Three years later Sarah married Benjamin.



Benjamin and Sarah Rose Wedding

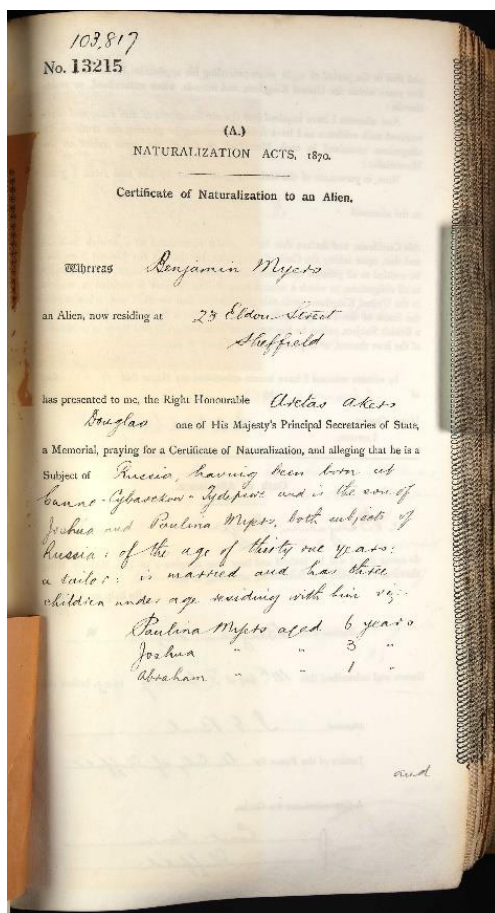
Solomon's sister Dora wrote the family story.

'Married life for Benjamin and Rose started in Leeds where he had established his independence and owned a small tailoring business. He had a very good private connection and prospects were good. He was always ambitious, but he was not a businessman. In a world where competition was the basis for success, he was completely out of his depth. He was a craftsman, worthy of a master's degree if they gave one for tailoring. Always a perfectionist he was incapable of making cheap or shoddy garments and that was his undoing. He was so well known for the quality and style of his work that anyone who could prove they had worked for him needed no further references.'

Their first child Paulina was born in Leeds in December 1896. The family then moved to Sheffield and lived at 23 Eldon Street where two more children were born, Joshua in 1899 and Abraham in 1901.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													Page 1
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban Sanitary District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban Sanitary District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet			
of Sheffield		of Sheffield and Bude Eldon		of Sheffield		of St George's		of Central Sheffield		of		of			
Code	ROAD STREET No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Number of Houses in the Street	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Inebriate, feeble-minded			
1	23 Eldon Lane	1	4	Henry Chadwick	Head	M	32	Backlayer Labourer	Worker		Wellingford Berks				
				Rose	Wife	F	36				do				
				William Byers	Son	M	6				Sheffield Gt. Uthwa				
2	2 Eldon Lane	1	2	Henry Boyd	Head	M	25	Wagon Labourer	Worker		do				
				Mary	Wife	F	24				do				
				Fredrick	Son	M	2				do				
				John Ho	Son	M	1/2				do				
3	23 Eldon St	1	4	Benjamin Myers	Head	M	30	Tailor Coat-Maker	Employer		Russia Poland				
				Rose	Wife	F	25				Leeds Yorkshire				
				Paulina	Daughter	F	4				Sheffield				
				Joshua	Son	M	1				do				
				Abraham	Brother	M	18	Tailor Coat hand	Worker		Russia Poland				

1901 Census



On 16 February 1903 Benjamin became a naturalised British citizen.

Benjamin and Rose had two more children whilst living in Sheffield, Dora in 1904 and Rachel in 1907. They then moved back to Leeds living at 24 Cambridge Road where Solomon was born in 1909.

GENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

Number of Families 26
(To be filled up by the Enumerator when collected)

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday and BIRTH)	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			Married	Widowed	Single	Divorced	Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which worker is connected	Master, Employer, or Working on Own Account	Whether Working as House			
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Boarder who</p> <p>(1) passed (the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entries see an Example on back of Schedule)</p>													
1	Benjamin Mylles	Head	40	Married	15	6	0	Master Tailor	270	Employed	Russell 920	English	
2	Rose	Wife	35										
3	Pauline	Daughter	14					Dressmaker	280	Worker	Leeds, Leeds		
4	Estelle	Son	11					Scholar	390		Leeds		
5	Abraham		9										
6	David	Daughter	6										
7	Rachel		4										
8	Estelle	Son	1										
9													
10													
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

1. All the ages in this Schedule are entered in this group in columns.

2. In enumerating the males and females in column 3, use the following, and have prepared the same for use with similar in official and have prepared the same for use with similar in official and have prepared the same for use with similar in official.

3. After making the necessary enquiries I have enumerated all persons in this Schedule which appeared to be distinct, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Date of Enumeration: 1911

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, W.C., Bathrooms, or Apartments). Count the Kitchens as 4 rooms but do not count sanitary, bathing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor wardrobe, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: B. Mylles

Postal Address: 24 Cambridge Rd., Leeds

1. All the ages in this Schedule are entered in this group in columns.

2. In enumerating the males and females in column 3, use the following, and have prepared the same for use with similar in official and have prepared the same for use with similar in official.

3. After making the necessary enquiries I have enumerated all persons in this Schedule which appeared to be distinct, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

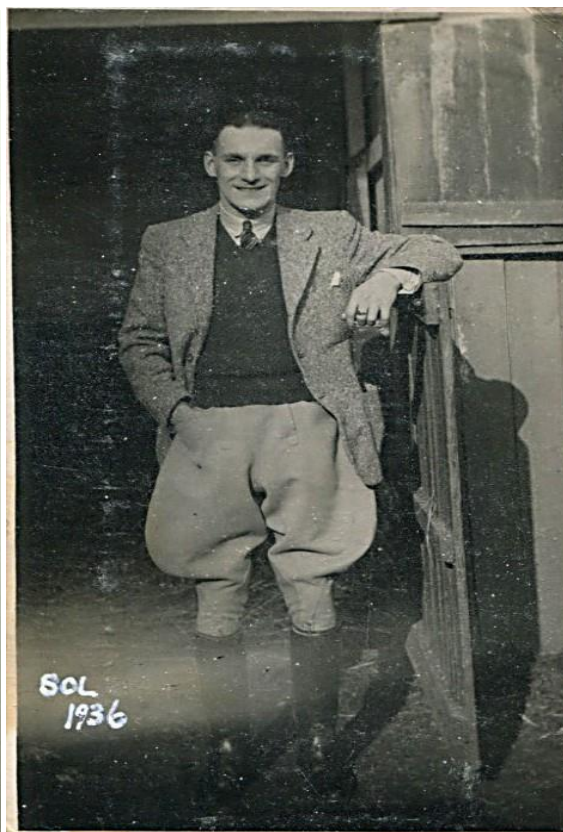
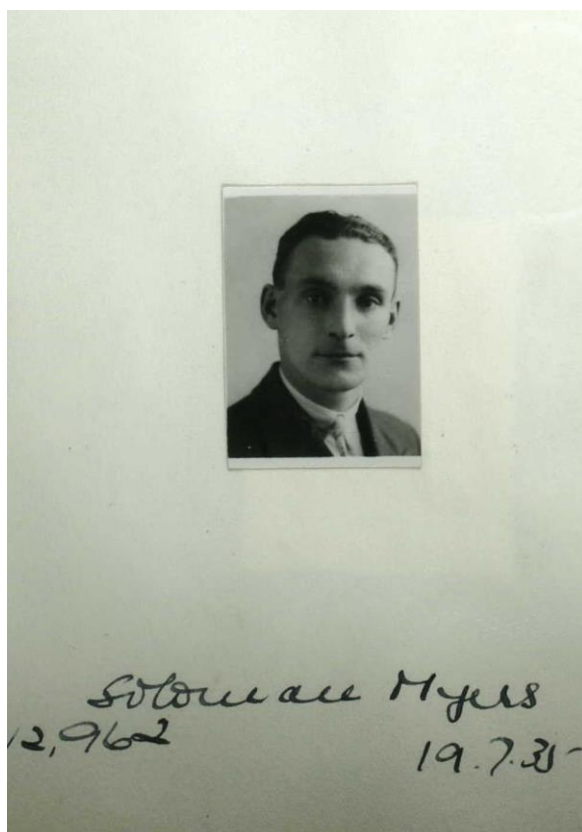
Date of Enumeration: 1911

1911 Census

Benjamin and Rose had three further children, Lilian in 1912 followed by David in 1915 who died aged eleven months and Estelle in 1917 who died aged six months.

MYERS, Soloman	12962
148, Cleethorpe Road, Grimsby, Lincs.	
Born	29th Nov. 1909, at Leeds.
Nationality	British.
Rank, Regiment, Profession	Manager, Wholesale Warehouse.
Certificate taken on	Blackburn Bluebird. Gipsy. 1. 95 H.P.
At	Lincolnshire Aero Club.
Date	19.7.35.

'In addition to his flying, Sol was also a very keen golfer and Sunday morning he always went riding. When he joined the Brocklesby Hunt, I was so proud of him. He looked smashing in the full regalia. My regular greeting to him after the hunt was to enquire about the 'DOGS' and I can still hear him saying 'OUNDS ME GAL, NOT DOGS'. He played cricket for a local team and was playing one week and when Barrington was staying with us. He cheered himself hoarse when Sol made his first 50. Nothing like taking your own fans. Sol also taught me the only game I ever played, Table Tennis, and no mercy shown. He had a great liking for classical books, I still have some of them here'.



In 1938 the family moved again to Cleethorpes living at 29 Signhills Avenue. All of Solomon's siblings were now living away from home and he lived with his parents. The 1939 Register states that

Benjamin was a business consultant for a wholesale drapery warehouse and Solomon, now aged twenty-nine was the manager of the company.

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		See INSTRUCTIONS.	
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. F. or L.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S. M. W. or D.	
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
R 23 Highville Ave	191								
25 ditto	192	1	Barber Willie	M	M	14 Feb	1894	14	Chief Clerk (Railway) (Retired)
25 ditto	192	2	Barber Annie	F	F	8 Dec	1874	4	Wife of domestic duties
27 ditto	193	1	Lander George W	M	M	19 Oct	1901	21	Professional (Sales Agent)
27 ditto	193	2	Lander Edith	F	F	10 Oct	1905	18	Wife of domestic duties
29 ditto	194	1	Myers Benjamin	M	M	13 Dec	1911	29	Wholesale Drapery Warehouse
29 ditto	194	2	Myers Rose M	F	F	15 Nov	1895	4	Wife of domestic duties
29 ditto	194	3	Myers Solomon	M	M	29 Nov	1919	29	Manager Wholesale Drapery

1939 Register

Dora wrote: 'In 1938 I declared myself redundant and went to Australia, the idea was that if I could get a good job, I would stay there. I like the hot weather and had it not been for the parents, would probably have stayed in New Zealand which I liked best of all. When I went away Ma began to worry about her youngest son (Solomon), felt sure he needed looking after, so the parents uprooted themselves once more. Bought a nice house in Cleethorpes and Sol was in the happy position of being the only one at home except Pa, and Ma was happy to have one of her brood to pander to. While I was in Australia, everybody was sure there was going to be a war and the thought of being away from the family if the war really came made me decide to return early 1939. Sol was beginning to feel restless again, and I told the parents they would have to think of some plan to keep him in England, because he was thinking of joining the Rhodesian Police. Pa persuaded Sol to take half his Myco shares to give him more interest in the business'.

Solomon enlisted at Padgate on 13 December 1940 and was sent for training to RAF Torquay on 15 March 1941. He was then sent to 21 O.T.U. and RAF Almaza for further training before joining 37 Squadron as a pilot at RAF Abu Sueir in Egypt on 26 June 1942.

'Sol volunteered immediately for the air force and was told that he was too old (He was 29). However, they raised the age limit, and he was accepted. Without his excellent knowledge of Maths, I doubt if he would have got through his training so quickly. He passed all his exams and was sent for Bomber training, and at that time it was Wellington's. Had to do a certain number of hours before he was put on operations. Probably his best experience in the private club helped. He got his wings and became Sgt. Pilot Solomon Myers'.



After Solomon arrived in Egypt, he was given a few days leave. He visited his sister Paulina in Israel and visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem. This is the last photo taken before he was killed.

First Operation

Solomon's first operation was on Wellington DV675 on 28/29 June as the 2nd pilot. The other crew were:

Captain George Douglas Brian Raffill, 129953

Observer Percy Ewart Stumbles, 109033

Wireless Operator Kenneth Jermyn Smith, 1258964

Air Gunner George Tomkins, 1359708

Air Gunner George Cutter, 860457

The aircraft departed at 22.50 detailed to attack motor transport between Grid 69 and Halfaya. They located the objective and dropped bombs in three sticks: bursts were seen amongst the vehicles attacked. The aircraft returned at 04.40.

2nd Operation

On 30 June/1 July the same crew departed at 20.21 on Wellington DV645 to LG.17 to attack aircraft dispersed near the road: the bombs were seen to straddle the aircraft. The aircraft then came down to 700 feet to machine gun motor transport on the road east of Fuka. They returned to base at 00.55.

3rd Operation

On 2/3 July the same crew departed at 00.22 on Wellington DV508. The aircraft dropped bombs in two sticks at dumps near Daba and M.T. 1st Stick caused one red fire, 2nd stick amongst M.T. Came

down to 50 feet and machine-gunned concentration of M/T. on road east of Daba (about 50 vehicles).

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
	WELLINGTON 14, OPERATIONS NIGHT 3/4 JULY 1942, (continued).						
	W. 57E	Sgt. Kelly, W. Sgt. Unsworth, E. Sgt. Thomson, Sgt. Smith, H.C. Sgt. Shaw, G.H. Sgt. Puller, H.J.	Captain. Sgt. Pilot. Observer. W/T Operator. Air Gunner. Air Gunner.	0050	0145	Sgt. Kelly attacked M.T. as ordered with three sticks. He straddled two concentrations, starting orange red fire followed by explosions. Many red and green flares seen.	
	DC. 500	F/Sgt. Harrold, E. P/O. Northerton, J. Sgt. Clapp, R. Sgt. Dora, G. Sgt. Brown, L. Sgt. Mapp, G.	Captain. Sgt. Pilot. Observer. W/T Operator. Air Gunner. Air Gunner.	0058	0100	F/Sgt. Harrold attacked M.T. in target area. Bursts seen near by. Two explosions seen as aircraft left target.	
	AD. 045	Sgt. Finlayson, J. Sgt. Heath, J. Sgt. Woodley, E. Sgt. Thomas, G. Sgt. How, G. Sgt. Neilson, E.	Captain. Sgt. Pilot. Observer. W/T Operator. Air Gunner. Air Gunner.	0050	0140	Sgt. Finlayson dropped his bombs in three sticks in target area at M.T. Bursts seen across concentrations. Many fires observed burning in area.	
	W. 508	Sgt. Raffill, G. Sgt. Hyatt, G. P/O. Standen, E. Sgt. Smith, E. Sgt. Tisdale, G. Sgt. Guther, G.	Captain. Sgt. Pilot. Observer. W/T Operator. Air Gunner. Air Gunner.	0052	0140	Sgt. Raffill dropped bombs in two sticks at dumps near Daba and M.T. 1st stick caused 1 red fire, 2nd stick amongst M.T. Bursts. One down to 50 ft. and m/gunned concentration of M.T. on road east of Daba. (About 50 vehicles)	

37 Squadron Operation Record Book

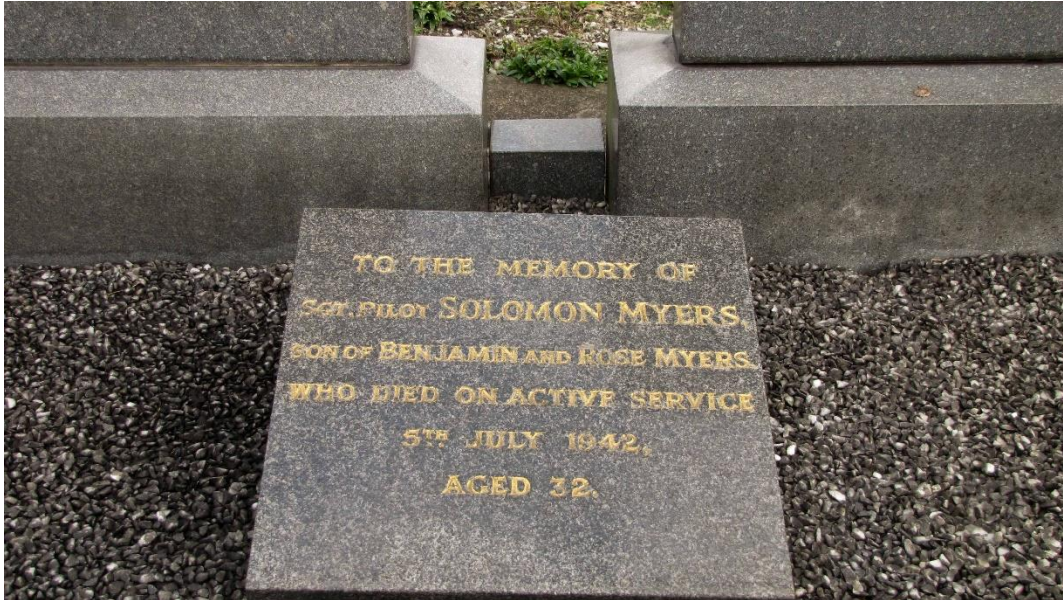
4th Operation

On 5/6 July 1942, the same crew departed on Wellington DV508 at 01.00 to attack targets in the El Daba area. The report states that several crews reported seeing an aircraft crash and catch fire after being attacked by night fighters. Position said to be 15 miles south east of Daba. All six crew are commemorated on the Alamein Memorial.

July 5th.	<p><u>OPERATIONS - ENEMY M.T. CONCENTRATIONS IN THE BATTLE AREA.</u></p> <p>On the night of 5/6th July of the 14 aircraft detailed to operate, 5 did not take off viz:- C; F; G; W; V; and G (Sgt. Raffill) failed to return. Target was again enemy M.T. concentrations in the Battle Area west of a line drawn roughly S.W. from Sidi Abdel Rahman. Much M.T. was seen dispersed and 6a planes claimed explosions and fires and 'B' (Sgt. Hibbs) claimed he demolished a shed S.E. of Ghazal near which an ammunition dump was exploding. 'J' (Sgt. Moorin) was attacked by an enemy night fighter and had to jettison 7x 250 lb. bombs after bombing rolling stock. Several crews reported seeing an aircraft crash and catch fire after being attacked by a night fighter - position said to be about 15 miles S.E. of Daba. 5 S/L's about 5 heavy guns fairly accurate and much medium accurate, was encountered by most aircraft. Weather was good.</p>
-----------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

37 Squadron Operations Book

'In 1942 a real catastrophe. Sol was reported missing. The news was sent to Jos and we all decided not to tell Ma and Pa, hoping against hope that perhaps he might be a prisoner of war. He had flown his Wellington bomber out to Egypt just before the Battle of Alamein. The crew were given a few days leave and he went to Palestine to see Paulina who was the last of the family to see him alive. I have a picture of Sol and Paulina taken in Tel Aviv. After 6 months the War Office sent the usual letter, plane had gone out to bomb enemy land concentrations and failed to return. Presumed killed'.



Solomon's Memorial stone at Gildersome Jewish Cemetery, Leeds.

Grateful thanks go to Sharon Woolf and her family for providing the photographs and information on Solomon's life.