

Maurice's grandparents Isaac and Sarah nee Magnus were born in Spitalfields, London. Maurice's family have advised that the Benjamin family have extremely long roots in London's East End, specifically Stepney. The earliest Benjamin ancestor's birth in the East End can be traced to 1787 and they believe they came to England from Holland.

In 1881 and 1891, Isaac was listed in the census as a general dealer and the family lived in Whitechapel. In 1901, he was listed as a costermonger and the family were now living in Stepney Green buildings, Stepney. Isaac died in 1904.

In 1911, his widow Sarah is living at 63 Skidmore Street, Whitechapel. Her older daughters Rose and Amelia are cigar makers and Maurice's father Benjamin is a boot maker.

In 1912, Benjamin married Jane Raymond in St George in the East, London. Their first son Isaac was born in 1913. They then had a further nine children, Abraham, Jane, James, Irene, Maurice, Amelia, Sarah, James and Marie. Their first son named James died when he was six and the next born son after his death was named after him.

Maurice was born in April 1923 in Mile End. After leaving school he came a sewing machine mechanic

In 1925, Maurice's father Benjamin enlisted into the Auxiliary Air Force. He is listed in the 1939 Register and on Benjamin's marriage certificate as a corporal in the RAF. Research has discovered that he was in 909 Squadron, Balloon Command based in Essex.

Maurice's relatives have said: 'Maurice was a good-looking lad who was a bit of a heart throb, I understand. He was everybody's favourite and the whole family is enormously proud of him and the contribution he made to the war effort.'

The family are unsure where Maurice met his wife Frances Williamson. Maurice's youngest sister has said it was an airbase but is not sure which one. Frances was a WAAF and could have been based at Dunholme Lodge where Maurice was based but unfortunately, she cannot say for sure. The marriage certificate states that they were resident at Wigsley, and they married at Newark Registry office in Nottinghamshire. France's father was Isaac Williamson and the register states that he was deceased at the time of the marriage and they lived in Buckie, Scotland.