

**P/O Arthur Leslie
Anderson 172970
RAFVR**

Arthur Anderson was a Lancaster pilot killed on his crew's first operation.



His Lancaster, JB421 EA-K of 49 Squadron, was shot down during a highly-accurate attack by 58 bombers on an ammunition storage site at Salbris in central France. The attack was part of Bomber Command's programme to disrupt the Germans prior to the D-Day invasion.

Arthur's crew took off from Fiskerton at 2157 hours on the night of 7 May 1944 in the raid, one of five attacks across France by Lancasters and Halifaxes. His aircraft was shot down, crashing near the town of St Doulichard, near Bourges. There were no survivors. The crew were all buried at St Doulichard Communal Cemetery.

Arthur came from Fenham in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he lived with his wife Beatrice Eleanor. He was the 22-year-old son of Edward and Thomasina Anderson.

The others who died were the flight engineer Sgt. Robert Fowls, navigator P/O Joseph Roach RCAF, bomb-aimer Flt. Sgt. Francis Pinch, wireless operator WO Robert Long, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Benjamin McLeod and rear gunner Sgt. Edward Rushton.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.