

P/O Clarence Howard Anderson J/18417
RCAF



Clarence Anderson was a Canadian navigator who had joined an experienced RAF crew for a raid over Germany after which, it is believed, their Lancaster was shot down in the English Channel.

His aircraft, Lancaster ED551 WS-M of 9 Squadron, was officially 'lost without trace' following a raid on the twin German towns of Monchengladbach and Rheydt in the early hours of 31 August 1943, the first major attack on these towns, which involved 660 bombers and caused major damage. However, it was later revealed that a 'four-engined bomber' was reported shot down by flak and crashed into the sea about 12 miles off the port of Ostend. No bodies or wreckage were recovered and the eight men who were on board the missing aircraft, including Clarence Anderson, are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

He had joined the crew of WO Gilbert Hall, who were on their 22nd operation together, to fly as the second navigator, possibly to gain experience. He was the 28-year-old husband of Edith Anderson and lived in the hamlet of Palmer in Saskatchewan. His parents, John and Myrtle Anderson, lived in Calgary in Alberta.

The others who died were the pilot WO Gilbert Hall, flight engineer Sgt. Leon Field, navigator Sgt. William Evans, bomb-aimer Sgt. Ted Colbert, wireless operator Sgt. Oliver Overington, mid-upper gunner Sgt. Robert Chorley and rear gunner Sgt. Henry Williams.

His name can be found on panel 002.

Sources: Bombers First and Last by Gordon Thorburn/9 Squadron ORB/Canadian Veterans.