

Wg. Cdr. Arthur Frank Calvert Booth 27219 RAF

Arthur was born on 1 January 1909 in West Chiltington, Sussex, the son of Lt John Lionel Calvert Booth MiD and Margaret Caroline Booth (née Dockerill). In September 1936 he married Andree Esaline Brooks in Johannesburg, South Africa. Their daughter was born in 1937.

Arthur's father was a war correspondent and war artist during the Boer and Balkan Wars, and early in 1914 the family moved to New South Wales, Australia. Arthur's father was wounded in Gallipoli during the First World War, died of his wounds on board a hospital ship and was buried at sea. His widow and their sons then moved to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Arthur joined the RAF in February 1929, when he was awarded a Short Service Commission as a pilot. An experienced Blenheim pilot, on 6 July 1941 Arthur was promoted and posted from 105 Squadron at RAF Swanton Morley to assume command of 107 Squadron at RAF Great Massingham.

On 12 July 1941 nine Blenheims were tasked with an anti-shipping patrol in Beat 9. Leading the formation, Arthur departed at 1120 hours in Blenheim IV Z7487 (OM). Whilst flying along the Dutch coast, at 1235 hours the aircraft was shot down by the German Marine Flak and crashed into the North Sea off IJmuiden, Noord-Holland. Arthur and the wireless operator/air gunner were killed whilst the observer was rescued and became a POW.

Arthur was the second 107 Squadron Commanding Officer lost in a week.

Also killed was the wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Colin Gordon Goodfellow.

On 7 August 1941, Arthur's body was washed ashore and buried in St-Peter Ording, Nordfriesland, Germany, before being transferred to Kiel War Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, for reburial in July 1947 .

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 133.